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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Daughter testifies against Calvo. **PAGE 3**

Telesource assures 'no power crisis' on Tinian. **PAGE 5**

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POLL RESULTS

Do you use a seat belt when driving?

Yes-136

No-26

Sunday, September 20, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of September 18, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Real Father

A man who once claimed to have fathered the child of John Edwards' mistress says Edwards is the real father.

NATION...Page 15

Beyonce Concert

Beyonce Knowles says she will perform in Malaysia in October.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

FY 2010 BUDGET PROPOSAL

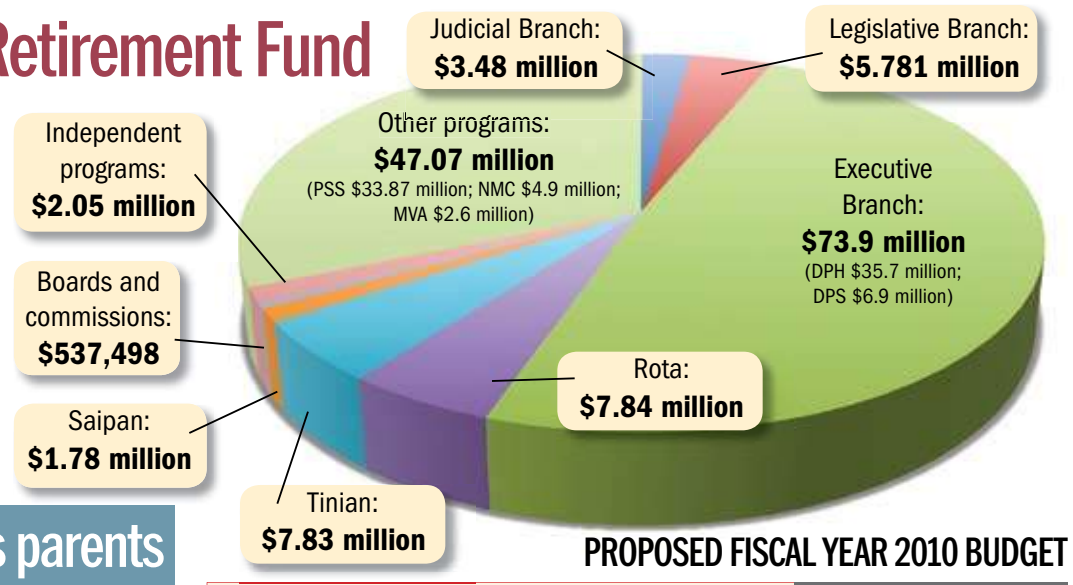
Almost $10M cuts in non-personnel costs

More money for DPH, MVA, Retirement Fund

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There are no salary cuts but non-personnel costs are reduced by $9.7 million in lieu of austerity measures under the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget compared to FY 2009 non-personnel spending.

See MONEY on Page 4


Judicial Branch: $3.48 million
Legislative Branch: $5.781 million
Other programs: $47.07 million (PSS $33.87 million; NMC $4.9 million; MVA $2.6 million)
Independent programs: $2.05 million
Executive Branch: $73.9 million (DPH $35.7 million; DPS $6.9 million)
Boards and commissions: $537,498
Rota: $7.84 million
Saipan: $1.78 million
Tinian: $7.83 million

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET

Delayed scholarship checks alarms parents

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Many parents of students who get financial assistance from the local government are disappointed and alarmed over the continued delay in the issuance of checks to students.

A parent, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said her daughter, now pursuing a degree in an off-island

See DELAYED on Page 4

KEY POINTS

- Projected resources for FY2010: $162.82 million
- Net budgetary resources: $150.5 million
- Total employees: 3,977, including 62 for DPL
- Payroll amounts to $111,187 million, including DPL's $1.5 million
- Non-personnel costs at $34.85 million, including DPL's $1.5 million

WHAT'S AHEAD?

House to hold session this week

Hundreds take part in coastal cleanup

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 600 volunteers, young and old, took part in the International Coastal Cleanup Saturday morning, collecting thousands of pounds of trash that litter the islands' beaches and shorelines.

Trash that would have otherwise gone into the water and harm the ma-

See HUNDREDS on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team carry plastic bags full of trash they collected at the Carolinian Utt beach in Garapan during the International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday morning. Over 600 young and old volunteers took part in the cleanup on Saipan and Tinian. ***See more pictures on Page 13.***

LIFE'S SHORT TYPE FAST

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Local

Babauta, Sablan consult on NMI issues prior to visit

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Newly sworn-in Department of Interior assistant secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony Babauta and U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) have discussed the numerous issues confronting the Northern Mariana Islands. The consultations preceded Babauta's first trip to the Northern Marianas in his new position with the Obama Administration.

"I invited Mr. Babauta to go to the Northern Mariana Islands as soon as he was sworn in," said Sablan. "And I appreciate that he will be visiting my district the week after next."

Among the topics that the two leaders discussed was the increasing difficulty the CNMI Department of Public Health is having meeting patient needs and paying for health care costs.

"I don't believe we should expect the federal government to bail us out of every difficulty," said Sablan. "But people's lives are at stake here. So I am asking assistant secretary Babauta to ask Governor Fitial, the Legislature, and CNMI Public Health officials what kind of short-term federal assistance could keep patients safe until the larger issues the Commonwealth Health Center faces are addressed."

Babauta

Sablan

Sablan said the status of capital improvement grants from the Office of Insular Affairs is another concern.

"I wrote to the governor this week about some $9.3 million in CIP grant funds that are due to expire on Sept. 30. And I encouraged the governor to talk honestly with the assistant secretary about how the Commonwealth can use CIP grants faster and more effectively.

"I don't want the people of the Northern Mariana Islands lose millions in infrastructure grants for Rota's Health Center and Tinian's landfill and CUC rehabilitation on Saipan."

Federal immigration will also be under review when Babauta gets to the Northern Marianas. Although Interior is not directly responsible for controlling the borders, Babauta's office will be in charge of estimating the future workforce needs in the NMI and recommending what federal policy should be regarding the long-term status of guest workers there under U.S. immigration law.

"I have encouraged the new assistant secretary to move up the timetable on Interior's responsibilities in U.S. Public Law 110-229, the federal immigration law for the Northern Mariana Islands. And I think he understands the importance of giving the business community and individual workers more certainty about their future under U.S. immigration.

"Mr. Babauta was one of the key staff people helping to draft 110-229 last year," Sablan said. "He knows how all the pieces are supposed to fit together.

"And he knows that I am relying on him to help make the transition to federal immigration control go smoothly, without damaging the economy or damaging the many families and individuals who will be affected by the law." ***(PR)***

Man gets 10-day sentence for stealing cow

The Superior Court has imposed a 10-day prison term on a man who stole a cow near its owner's house in Kagman last year.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Franklin M. Aldan to five years in prison, all suspended, except for 10 days, for theft.

Manglona gave Aldan four days credit for the time he had already served in jail.

The judge ordered the 26-year-old Aldan to report to the Department of Corrections today, Monday, at 8am to serve the remainder of his prison term.

The defendant will be released on Sunday at 8am.

Aldan was ordered to pay $800 restitution to the victim, Herman Somorang, plus a $100 court assessment fee, and $20 probation fee.

After completing his prison term, Aldan will be placed on five years of probation.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, the conviction will not be used to revoke Aldan's probation in any previous criminal case or charge.

Manglona required the defendant to return to court for a review hearing on Dec. 9, 2009 at 1:30pm.

"Defendant's failure to appear will result in the issuance of a bench warrant," the judge said.

In May 2008, police arrested Aldan and another man for allegedly stealing a one-year-old brown male calf owned by Somorang.

The cow was reportedly tied in an open grassy area near Somorang's house in Kagman when it was stolen on April 5, 2008.

A witness saw a pickup truck pulling the cow.

Aldan signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to theft.

In August 2005, Aldan was arrested in connection with a robbery-snatching case.

On April 12, 2008, Herman Somorang Jr. beat up Joey Mendiola Jr. over his missing cow.

In November 2008, Somorang pleaded guilty to assault and battery and was sentenced to eight days in prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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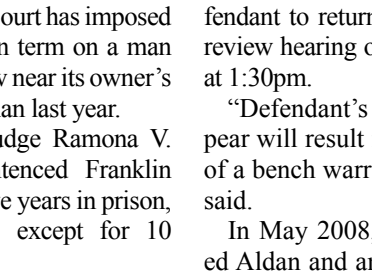

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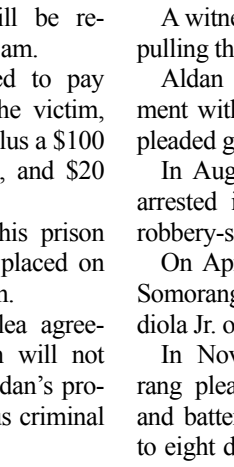

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Alamagan, Agrihan evacuation may take awhile

Red Cross takes evacuated family of six to shelter

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chartering a boat to bring to Saipan the remaining 12 residents of Alamagan and Agrihan may take awhile as there's a lengthy process to go through, according to Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan yesterday.

As this developed, the American Red Cross moved from Ada Gym to its shelter Saturday night a family of six, including a newborn baby, who were flown by military helicopter from Alamagan to Saipan Thursday.

Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* that right now the Fitial administration is processing the purchase requisition to finance the charter of the vessel and other related expenses.

"It's a lot of process. We don't know yet [the evacuation operation's exact date]. Even I don't know when," he said.

The EMO official, however, reiterated their position that all remaining residents on Alamagan and Agrihan should be evacuated due to the devastation sustained by both islands in the wake of Super Typhoon Choi-Wan.

"We are going to evacuate everybody. Nobody should be left behind," Pangelinan said.

He said they could not request the U.S. military to evacuate the remaining residents because they already did their part.

"It's now our turn to bring them over. Unless it's a life-and-death situation like a family member dying, then they [military] will help out. But the [residents] are okay," Pangelinan said.

With the evacuation of six individuals, only eight people are left on Alamagan. Four remain on Agrihan.

One of two U.S. Navy helicopters picked up the six from Alamagan Tuesday morning and flew them to Saipan. The baby was born on Alamagan on Sunday.

After being checked, the mother and the baby were released from the Commonwealth Health Center on Friday and brought to the Ada Gymnasium for shelter.

Pangelinan said yesterday that the American Red Cross staff brought the family to their shelter at the Saipan airport Saturday at 8pm.

"It's a family shelter up there and they can accommodate everybody, and the baby too," Pangelinan said.

Super Typhoon Cho-Wan's center passed directly over Alamagan Tuesday afternoon, packing 150 to 160 miles per hour winds.

EMO said everything on Alamagan has been damaged. All six houses were reportedly blown away. EMO will get an assessment report from one of its staff today regarding damage to property on Agrihan.

Daughter testifies against Calvo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of the children of businessman Patrick Mendiola Calvo testified against him Friday in his ongoing trial in the Superior Court for sexual abuse of a minor.

The teenage daughter flew from Hawaii just to testify for the government.

During direct examination by assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher, the daughter said that in June 2008 the victim told her that Calvo had sexually molested her.

The daughter said she then called her other sister who was in the U.S. mainland at the time to inform her about the incident. She said her sister told her to inform the victim's mother about it to make sure that nothing would happen again to the victim.

The daughter said the mother and the victim later talked to attorney Vince Seman and told him what had happened.

She said Seman, who is her uncle, was the one who called the police.

During cross-examination by defense attorney G. Anthony Long, the daughter related that, after the victim told her about the sexual abuse, she went to a friend's house then checked on the victim a couple of hours later.

When the daughter took the witness stand, some family members and relatives of the victim's mother in the courtroom were in tears.

After the testimony, a family member and the daughter cried as they tightly hugged each other outside the courtroom.

Before Calvo's daughter took the stand, Seman testified, saying it was on or about June 12, 2008, when the victim's mother called him about the incident.

Seman said when he later met the victim and her mother inside a vehicle, the victim was crying.

"I tried to console her," Seman said, adding that he then called the police.

After his testimony, Seman and the mother's family member were also seen crying as they embraced outside the courtroom.

Police Officer Roy Kaipat also took the witness stand, saying that, after receiving a call, he met the victim who was with her mother and other relatives inside a car near the Boating Safety Section Office at Smiling Cove Marina.

Kaipat said he learned that the victim had been sexually assaulted.

"The victim was emotional at that time. She never finished her statement, she would start crying," Kaipat said.

He said he decided to call the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Youth Services.

Kaipat said when DPS and DYS investigators arrived, he briefed them on what he had learned.

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja continued the trial on Monday at 9am.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Calvo with sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and disturbing the peace.

The prosecution alleged that Calvo sexually assaulted a then 13-year-old girl on June 11, 2008.

Calvo pleaded not guilty.

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[2] Guam and Saipan residents and branches only. Must have a Continental Airlines OnePass account to receive OnePass Miles. No purchase necessary. See branch for official rules.

HUNDREDS

From Page 1

rine environment—from soda cans, beer bottles, water bottles, and paper, to plastic bags, old tires, cigarette butts, used mattresses, and even diapers—found their way either to the recycling center or the Marpi landfill for proper disposal.

Veronnie Babauta, 10, said she picked up a lot of bottles, papers, plastics, shoes, and diapers along the Carolinian Utt shoreline in Garapan.

"I picked up a lot of trash and I enjoyed doing it," she said, as her friends, Norman Defang and Harry Moni Jr., both 12, also said they're happy to help clean the area. They were all part of the PDM Promoters and Saipan Awaodori teams that adopted the area for the weekend cleanup.

It was Saipan and Tinian's first time to join the International Coastal Cleanup, led by the Washington, D.C.-based non-profit advocacy group Ocean Conservancy, which promotes healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems.

The 24th International Coastal Cleanup urged people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, identify the sources of debris, and change the behaviors that cause marine debris in the first place.

"A lot of people pollute the beaches, but I want to help clean the beaches. Mother Nature needs our help," said Jessica Bigueras, 12, who joined family and friends from CTSI to clean up Susupe Beach.

One of the youngest volunteers, 4-year-old Alou Buensalido, didn't mind waking up early on Saturday to tag along with her family and friends to rid Susupe Beach of over 30 plastic bags of garbage that included typhoon debris.

But while the CTSI team was busy cleaning up the area, a man dumped loads of garbage into the water at a nearby beach.

James Kintaro, 47, another cleanup volunteer, said the reward is in knowing that one helped save the environment.

"It gives you satisfaction to know that you've done something to save the environment," said Kintaro, who is also a Red Cross volunteer.

On Saipan, the cleanup started at 8am and was supposed to end at noon. But in most sites, the cleanup lasted for only one to two hours. By 10:30am, virtually all major beach areas had already been rid of trash by volunteers.

On Tinian, over 30 volunteers and businesses cleaned up Long Beach or Unai Dankulo, and collected over 25 bags of trash and four truckloads of debris by 12 noon.

"This was a real eye opener to all of us; seeing the type of trash that washes up on our shores was frightening. I never knew how much plastic collects on our beaches. It is one thing to see it on the beach as you walk by or while you are swimming or barbecuing at the beach, but to sit there and collect trash for four hours and fill bag after bag after bag was a wake up call for continued action," said Tinian Chamber of Commerce president Phillip Mendiola-Long in a separate statement.

He said the coastal cleanup will now turn into a regular quarterly project for the Tinian Chamber of Commerce.

"Everyone really had a good time and it turned out to be a good way to bring the community and families together for a great cause. It was and will be a win-win for everyone involved, including Mother Nature," Mendiola-Long added.

Jolene Torres and Kyle Calabrese joined other supporters of the gubernatorial campaign team of Juan "Pan" Guerrero and Floor Leader Joe Camacho in cleaning up the Garapan Fishing Base of some 50 lbs of trash.

Over 80 employees of Tan Holdings also cleaned up the beach and surrounding areas behind the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Joe Kaipat, manager of the Division of Environmental Quality's Safe Drinking Water Branch and coordinator of DEQ's Cleanup Brigade, said the division has seen tremendous volunteerism when it comes to cleaning up the environment, especially during the Environmental Awareness Month cleanup in April and Saturday's international coastal cleanup.

"We've seen an increase in volunteers this year. We've also seen that many people are willing to pick up trash after beach picnics and parties but we want to remind them not to put food in trash bags and leave them because it doesn't take long for dogs to scatter them around," said Kaipat, who is also co-chair of Beautify CNMI! Coalition's Solid Waste Committee.

Every weekend, a DEQ cleanup brigade sets out for major beaches and tourist sites to collect trash. "The regular volunteers include Kagman High School Marine Biology Club members," he said.

Saipan mayoral candidate Angelo Villagomez, who is the director of Community Service for the Rotary Club of Saipan and Beautify CNMI! coordinator, organized a cleanup of Tank Beach in Kagman.

The international coastal cleanup was coordinated by DEQ, in partnership with Beautify CNMI! and the Coastal Resources Management.

DELAYED

From Page 1

university, had been told several times that her check will be out soon but this has not happened.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday the scholarship problem is being addressed and the checks may be issued this week, possibly as early as today.

"We appreciate the patience of students and parents as we work to resolve the matter," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

The parent said her daughter was supposed to get the check before or right after the start of the Fall semester, but the money has been delayed for unknown reasons.

"They said the money is there for the scholars…but up to this time the students are waiting," the disappointed mother said, adding that this also affects the performance of scholars because the delay places further stress on them.

Frustrated

A father of a scholar enrolled at the Northern Marianas College is frustrated because he said the concerned agencies keep giving his son false hopes.

"He keeps on checking from time to time, only to be informed that it would be delayed for another week," the father said.

He pointed out that the financial assistance is not only to pay for the students' tuition but also for their miscellaneous expenses such as books.

"Classes already started since last month and they need those books or at least pay half of their tuition. I hope these agencies will find the courage to tell students what's really going on," the father added.

Students receiving funds from the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, or SHEFA, also complained of the same situation. SHEFA is administered by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Last month, Sen. Paul Manglona wrote Scholarship Office administrator Merissa Seman-Rasa about the delayed issuance of the students' checks. She said the first batch of recipients has been cleared and that her office had already asked the Department of Finance to disburse the checks.

Checks out

Seman-Rasa also confirmed the issuance of checks this week.

"Our first batch of checks [is] out. They were printed on Friday and we are working over the weekend to have them out and ready for distribution Monday [today]," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are close to 500 off-island and on-island students scheduled to receive the first batch of checks.

This fall semester, the CNMI Scholarship Office reduced the financial assistance it gives under the Educational Assistance Program. From last school year's $3,960, the assistance is down to $3,600 this year, which is 9 percent lower. Each EAP scholar who applies for college here or abroad will be awarded just $1,880 per semester.

MONEY

From Page 1

House Bill 16-275, which House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) prefiled on Friday, also pumps money into paying the government's $231 million deficient employer contribution to the Retirement Fund, as ordered by a June 29 Superior Court ruling.

Yumul's bill reflected non-personnel cost of $40,610,207 in 2010, compared to $50,364,792 in the 2009 budget law, Public Law 16-32.

Utilities cost alone is cut by 19 percent or $1.7 million, from $8,953,902 to $7,253,901.

"The idea is also to promote energy conservation. We encourage government offices to reduce power and water consumption," Yumul said.

The total 2010 cost, inclusive of personnel, non-personnel and utilities, is proposed at $150,288,886, compared to $156,755,914 in the current fiscal year.

Of the proposed over $150 million in total cost, almost $145 million is required from the general fund appropriations.

Compact Impact funding is down to $1.93 million in 2010, from $1.171 million in 2009.

Outside general fund is $3.38 million, down from the current $3.5 million.

10 pct. cut in lawmakers' office budget

Under Yumul's bill, individual government agencies' non-personnel costs are reduced.

For example, each lawmaker will see a slash in their operational account—from over $99,114 in 2009 to only about $89,335, a cut of almost 10 percent.

The Legislature, however, retained its 208 full-time employees for $2.7 million. Its proposed non-personnel cost for 2010 is $3,079,422, which is 9 percent lower than $3,402,306 in the current fiscal year.

The Judiciary will also see a 14 percent cut in total non-personnel costs, from $642,585 to the proposed $550,943.

The Executive Branch will have $24,000,613 in total non-personnel costs, an 11 percent drop from the current level of $27,021,396.

The Office of the Governor alone will have an 11 percent slash in its total non-personnel cost, from $4,476,889 to $3,994,387.

The Fitial administration is reviewing Yumul's bill.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the budget bill is expected to be discussed in today's Cabinet meeting to be presided by acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is in Washington, D.C. and is set to meet with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano this week on federalization issues.

The Department of Finance projected gross budgetary resources to reach $162.82 million in FY 2010, which will start on Oct. 1, 2009 and ends on Sept. 30, 2010.

Money for Retirement Fund

Yumul said the proposed 2010 budget reflects more money going to the Retirement Fund in line with a June 29 Superior Court ruling that orders the government to pay its $213 million debt for unpaid employer contribution to the pension system.

Among other things, Yumul's budget proposal creates a $3.51 million separate supplemental Retirement Fund account.

This will be used exclusively for the payment of the difference between the retirement contribution rate of 16 percent and 11 percent for all government employees funded by the general fund.

The bill also reflects a 16-percent employer retirement contribution to the Retirement Fund among government offices, the Public School System, autonomous agencies and public corporations.

The 2010 budget bill also lifts P.L. 16-32's suspension of the remittance to the Retirement Fund of the 30 percent hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent alcoholic beverage container tax.

Yumul's proposal also lifts the P.L. 16-32 suspension of remittance to the Marianas Visitors Authority of 25 percent of the alcoholic beverage container tax and 70 percent of the hotel occupancy tax.

H.B. 16-275 also requires remitting unexpended indirect costs for administering federal grants to the Retirement Fund.

Under this provision, any funds received by the CNMI government, except for public corporations and autonomous agencies not funded by the general fund, as indirect costs for administering federal grants to be expended in FY 2010 shall be identified and added to each respective business unit account. Such business unit's general fund appropriation shall be reduced by the same amount.

"All funds realized from such reduction shall be remitted to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund to pay the government's deficient employer contribution," the bill said.

Any funds not expended by the Office of the Public Auditor is also to be remitted to the Retirement Fund at the end of the fiscal year to pay the government's deficient employer contribution, the bill says.

$3.38M supplement budget for DPH

Yumul said his bill provides for up to $3.38 million in supplement budget for the Department of Public Health.

The amount will come from active revolving accounts available balances of $629,740; tobacco control fund of $1,288,882; tobacco settlement fund collections of $551,422; and solid waste revolving fund available balances of $913,842.

DPH's budget for 2010 as proposed by Yumul is almost $35.7 million, down from $37.4 million in 2009. Of the 2010 budget, $30.36 million will come from general fund appropriation.

Utilities fund offsetting, rebate

Under Yumul's proposal, beginning Oct. 1, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is to repay earmarked funds of $1.7 million by offsetting the government utilities monthly billing by $140,000 until the total amount is paid in full, provided that $585,633 of the total offset amount shall be allotted to pay the Public School System's CUC billing account.

Within 18 months of the effective date of the 2010 budget law, CUC shall implement a residential rate reduction or begin a residential consumer rebate program of $1.7 million.

A total amount of $1.7 million shall be expended by CUC for residential rate reduction or a residential customer rebate program within 54 months of the effective date of the budget law.

Freeze hiring

Just like the 2009 budget law, the 2010 budget bill restricts new hiring except for critical positions such as doctors, nurses, police officers and teachers.

The proposed budget also removes housing allowances or benefits to government employees.

"However, such housing benefit may be rolled into the salary of government employees as compensation," said H.B. 16-275.

Total full-time employees for FY 2010, including that of the Department of Public Lands, are pegged at 3,977, compared to 4,083 in the current fiscal year. DPL's employees remain at 62.

The changes in the number of FTEs reflect the elimination of 11 positions at the former Washington Resident Representative's Office, and the reduction of two employee positions on Rota.

Additional hiring include a historian at the Division of Historic Preservation; two accounting technician 2 for Finance's Division of Treasury; a mental health counselor, a substance abuse professional, and a special assistant for grant management at the Division of Mental Health and Social Services; and a manager for the Transitional Living Center,

The House is expected to hold a session this week to take up the 2010 budget bill, which does not include austerity measures as proposed by the Fitial administration.

The Senate may insert austerity measures in the House bill.

Telesource assures 'no power crisis' on Tinian

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Telesource CNMI Inc. assures the people of Tinian that they will continue to receive reliable and dependable power and there is no cause to worry about the future of power generation on island.

Jeff Barr, general manager of Telesource, said the company has a long-term commitment to Tinian residents.

"We are willing to continue to provide services to Tinian…and we still have nine to 10 years to serve under the [extended] contract," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

It was earlier reported that a power crisis similar to the Saipan situation may happen on Tinian due to some "unresolved issues" between the company and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which could result in Telesource pulling out of the island.

CUC has an outstanding debt to the company; Barr, however, refused to discuss this.

"I cannot discuss our financials…but as far as Telesource's willingness to continue running the electricity on Tinian, we're very much willing and capable to do so," he said.

Barr said there's a possibility of some "negotiation" with CUC but he declined to elaborate on this when pressed.

Telesource has been serving Tinian for the past 10 years.

As for a potential power crisis on Tinian, Barr described the issue as mere speculation.\ "No. We have enough supply," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Saipan Tribune was told that people of Tinian are worried that the CUC power crisis has moved to their island following information that there is currently a moratorium on any new power connections until CUC pays its obligation to Telesource.

Barr denied these issues, citing that there is no "problem" between the two parties at this time.

Early this year, Telesource offered to help CUC solve its power crisis on Saipan by offering to make a $100 million investment in CUC, waiving over $1 million of accounts receivable in exchange for a negotiated contract on Tinian. Part of the package was the transfer of 10 megawatts of excess power from Tinian to Saipan at the company's own cost. It also offered to conduct a wind power energy study and assist in rehabilitating engines 5 and 7 on Saipan.

CUC refused the offer and, instead, contracted the Aggreko generators for a year.

Saipan Tribune learned that Telesource's investment on Tinian exceeds $40 million as it financed, designed, built and now operates the Tinian power plant.

Reyes: 'Prudent' outsourcing, privatization pushed for CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is pushing for the "prudent" outsourcing and privatization of the Commonwealth Health Center to address the decades-long problems plaguing the only hospital on island.

Reacting to the results of a recent survey conducted among hospital employees and patients affirming the hospital's depressing situation, press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said the administration has placed public health among its highest priority since Day 1 as shown in the high budget priority status afforded the Department of Public Health.

"While government revenues shrank and the government reduced its operating budget by 30 percent, DPH was considered essential and was spared from budget cuts," he told *Saipan Tribune,* adding that the administration will continues to prioritize funding for DPH. He said the administration will also continue to seek all available federal funds for the agency.

Reyes disclosed that the local government is also looking to the private sector to supplement public health care and had invited private clinics into the hospital.

"We are open to strategic and prudent outsourcing and privatization to reduce costs and improve the efficiency and delivery of health care services," he said.

In the latest survey, respondents highlighted the need to overhaul operation and approach to delivery of quality health care at CHC due to factors such as mismanagement, lack of physicians, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems.

It was earlier disclosed that two of the most important sections in the hospital—internal medicine and pediatric clinics—have significantly cut down services because of the lack of doctors. People are being advised to seek medical attention in private clinics to make up for the shortage.

Reyes said the administration is now moving forward with the new dialysis center and has filed a lawsuit against the center's contractor for flawed design and cost overruns.

"The situation at DPH was very difficult even before this administration came into office, and has been made more difficult by the economic downturn and contracting resources, but progress has still been made," Reyes said, adding that policies have been put in place to recover costs

Reyes said a physician for the Tinian Health Center has also been hired while recruitment efforts are ongoing for doctors and other medical professionals for Saipan.

Acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan, in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, cited the unattractive salary rates as the main factor why the hospital keeps losing medical professionals.

Reyes said the administration supports an "equitable and affordable salary schedule" that would attract and retain the needed medical staff.

He described the CHC situation as "not a unique condition" among hospitals around the world.

"The situation we face with public health care is not unique to the CNMI or to this administration. It is a formidable challenge also shared by other U.S. insular areas, as documented by a recent DOI report, as well as jurisdictions in the mainland U.S.," he said, adding that U.S. national politics is now consumed by a raging health care debate.

Ex-convict gets 10-day term for theft at garment factory

The Superior Court has imposed a 10-day prison term on an ex-convict who was among four persons accused of burglarizing and stealing several items from two warehouses of the defunct MGM Garment Manufacturing in Chalan Piao.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos sentenced Jake Ito to one year in prison, all suspended except for 10 days, for theft.

Inos gave Ito credit for the time he had already served in prison and placed the defendant on one year of supervised probation.

The judge ordered the defendant pay a $100 fine, $100 court assessment fee, and a probation fee.

Inos set a restitution hearing on Dec. 16, 2009.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Ito, Donny Swei, Sharp Igirutoi, and Franco Edboy with burglary and theft.

Ito entered a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to theft.

Police said that on April 5, 2009, the suspects broke into the MGM factory warehouses and stole an air compressor, three exhaust fans, and other metal items.

The suspects loaded the items into a pickup truck and sold them, except the air compressor, to Triple Star Recycling Center.

With the help of a "cooperating defendant" police traced the air compressor to a residence in Koblerville.

Ito was among four men convicted of kidnapping and raping two Chinese women at Suicide Cliff in 1998. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Meat-cutter sues ex-manager for alleged assault

A store meat-cutter has sued his former manager in the Superior Court for allegedly beating him up inside a freezer room two years ago.

Nestor Delima sued Gyu Ha Park and Han Nam Corp. for battery, false imprisonment, and infliction of emotional distress.

Han Nam Corp. owns Han Nam Market.

Saipan Tribune called Han Nam Market yesterday to get the defendants' side, but the manager said Park has already been terminated and they don't want to comment on the lawsuit.

Delima, through lawyer Bruce Berline, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay him damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Berline stated in the complaint that Delima was an employee of Han Nam Market for five years.

Berline said that on Sept. 19, 2007, while Delima was working at his job as a meat-cutter, Park approached and began shouting at him, apparently angry over the unavailability of a certain cut of meat.

Delima went inside the walk-in freezer, but Park ran after him and allegedly choked him from behind.

The plaintiff struggled to free himself. The manager, however, allegedly continued attacking him by pushing and punching him repeatedly.

The worker attempted to escape the walk-in freezer, but Park allegedly pinned him up against the wall.

Eventually, Delima escaped and called the police.

Berline said Park is a family member of the owners of the store.

"Prior to the assault, defendant had a known propensity for violence while doing his job and acting as the general manager," the lawyer said.

Berline said Delima suffered bodily injury and severe emotional pain. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

LIFESAVER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ryan Manglona, center, was given an award plus $100 cash for his heroic efforts in saving the life of a young boy on Aug. 21, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. In the picture with Ryan is his General Manager Ed Cho, left, and Personnel Manager Joe Ada.

Salvation Army responds to typhoon victims

The Salvation Army's CNMI Citadel Corps has responded to assist the victims of Typhoon Choi Wan.

"We are providing food, cooking utensils, towels, pillows, baby clothing, infant formulas, toys and other items to the families," said Pastor Wayne Gillespie.

"We know that there are 12 more people who will be evacuated off of Agrihan and Alamagan soon and we are ready for their arrival," said Ministry Leader Annie Gillespie.

Wayne Gillespie said their divisional commander and his staff in Honolulu responded immediately when he requested funds.

"It is the end of our fiscal year and we did not have enough money on hand to handle this incident. Our divisional leaders are as concerned as we are for the folks who live up on the Northern Islands and somehow found the funds. This is a wonderful gift from our divisional headquarters," said Wayne Gillespie.

The Salvation Army thanked Saipan Rotary Club president Kim Forrester of Triple J Five Star Wholesale, Dolphin Wholesale, Price Costco and Han Nam Markets "for their professionalism, courtesy and discounts, which enabled more assistance to flow to our clients."

The Salvation Army also cited the good work being carried out by Jack Omar and the staff of the Emergency Management Office as well as other private sector agencies such as the American Red Cross, Grace Christian Assembly, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and several others.

"We are very impressed at the great spirit of cooperation and coordination amongst the various private sector agencies working this disaster," said Wayne Gillespie. "Everyone is putting the needs of the victims first and that is always the most important thing."

The Salvation Army welcomes donations of cash or canned food. Used clothing is not needed at this time. Checks may be made out to The Salvation Army and someone from the Corps will be happy to pick them up if donors contact them at 483-0885. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Info meeting today on Laolao Bay road plan

A public information meeting about Laolao Bay Road and Coastal Management Project will be held at Kagman Community Center on Monday, Sept. 21 at 6:30pm.

The presentation will include results from a Laolao Bay user survey, as well as an overview of the road improvement plan by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For details call DEQ at 664-8500 or Kathleen Herrmann at 287-8577. Food and drinks will be provided. ***(DEQ)***

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort Job Fair in Kagman

The Kagman Komunidat Association announced that the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort will be having a job fair at the Kagman Community Center on Sept. 22, from 5pm to 7pm. Applications and resumes will be accepted for the different departments for Lao Lao's new hotel. Please bring your resume and dress appropriately. ***(PR)***

Nepalese community marks Happy Vijaya Dashami

Happy Vijaya Dashami is one of the big festival of the Nepalese community. All Nepalese nationals on Saipan, Tinian and Rota are invited to this auspicious occasion on Sept. 27, 2009, 5pm, at the Main Pavilion of the Tachogna Beach in San Jose Village, Tinian.

Those who intend to participate should register before Sept. 25, 2009. For more information, contact Bal Keishna Thapa Magar at 287-8220 or Kedar Bahadur Shrestha at 287-0239. ***(PR)***

Brilliant Star School to mark UN International Peace Day

Monday, Sept. 21, marks the 10th annual United Nations International Peace Day. The upper elementary students at Brilliant Star School on Navy Hill have been learning about International Peace Day and will be participating in a variety of activities with the school to mark this occasion. At 8:30am, the students will unveil their 5-foot tall peace pole, featuring the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in Carolinian, Chamorro, Mandarin and English, and dedicate it to the school with a reading of class poetry. Later in the morning, the school will participate in "Sing Peace Around the World." The students will be joining children from around the globe, as Montessori schools worldwide come together to create 24 hours of singing with schools from 30 participating countries. ***(PR)***

Sablan supports student aid bill in floor debate

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has come out in support of a bill that would put $4 million into student aid in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Friday began debate on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, and Sablan, an original co-sponsor of the bill, said the passage of the measure will help ensure that students will "stay in school and make sure they succeed."

H.R. 3221 seeks to increase Pell Grant awards for individual students to as much as $5,500 next year, increases the number of students eligible for Pell Grants, and helps lower interest rates on student tuition loans.

It also sends more money to community colleges, such as the Northern Marianas College. A total of $750,000 per year for five years will go to the CNMI for the College Access Grant Program, encouraging more students to attend and complete college. And NMC will receive funds to help finance college facilities.

Early childhood education is also a focus of the bill. About $1 billion will be awarded annually nationwide on a competitive basis to build an effective early childhood workforce.

Sablan made the following statement during Friday's debate:

"M. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. I wish to thank Chairman Miller for his leadership on this bill, and express my thanks to the staff as well.

M. Speaker, the financial resources of local governments and college and university scholarship funds are quickly dwindling. I am encouraged that this Congress is working to ensure access to student grants and loans at a time when many families, including those in my district in the Northern Mariana Islands, are struggling to make ends meet. The changes made by H.R. 3221 will mean that even more students will get the opportunity to pursue higher education.

"This legislation will raise the annual maximum Pell grant to unprecedented levels and ensure that these grants will continue to increase with the cost of tuition. It will open up an addition $4 million for Pell grants in the Northern Marianas alone. It will make investments in financial aid that will benefit students from every district, no matter where they go to college. Increased funding to minority-serving institutions, including those with large populations of Pacific Islanders, will ensure that our students from the Northern Marianas are cared for and supported, both socially and academically, when they are so far away from their home.

"Three quarters of a million dollars will be available in the Northern Marianas for programs that encourage students to stay in school and make sure they succeed. And money will also be dedicated to community colleges, like Northern Marianas College, to help them finance new projects and cover existing needs.

"Higher education is truly the investment of a lifetime—it creates opportunities and opens doors that will benefit our students and families far into the future. I applaud this legislation and I yield back the balance of my time." ***(PR)***

Bank donates $1K to MMAC

Bank of Hawaii recently donated $1,000 to the Marianas March Against Cancer.

"The MMAC Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to Bank of Hawaii and their staff for helping support the fight against cancer," the group said in a statement.

The MMAC is the single largest fundraising event in the CNMI that raises money for cancer related programs and patient assistance. All funds raised are spent locally. Donations are accepted throughout the year.

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 28, 2010. For more information visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

2 more Uighur detainees heading to Palau

KOROR, Palau (AP)—Two more Chinese Muslim detainees held at Guantanamo Bay have agreed to be relocated to the tiny Pacific nation of Palau, their lawyer said Saturday, bringing to six the total who will resettle.

Palau has offered 13 ethnic Uighurs held at the U.S. military prison in Cuba a chance to move there—an arrangement that would ease President Barack Obama's plans to close the contentious facility.

The men have been held by the U.S. since their capture in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001. The Pentagon determined last year they were not "enemy combatants" but they have been in legal limbo ever since. China regards the Uighurs (pronounced WEE'-gurs) as terrorist suspects and wants them returned.

But Uighur activists claim the detainees face persecution or death if they are returned there, and U.S. officials have struggled to find a country to take them in.

"Two more of our clients have agreed to go to Palau as the U.S. continues to look for a permanent home for them," Eric Tirschwell, the U.S.-based lawyer for four of the detainees, told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Their acceptance means six of the detained Chinese Muslims have now decided to move to the mid-Pacific state, which offered in early June to take in the Turkic Muslims from far western China.

That same month, four Uighur detainees were resettled in Bermuda.

Five of the detainees have declined even to meet with Palau officials.

The relocation agreements need U.S. Congressional approval, a process that is expected to take about two weeks.

"We are hopeful that this long overdue move to freedom will happen as quickly as possible and are doing whatever we can to make that happen," Tirschwell said in an e-mail.

There was no immediate response to requests for comment from Palauan officials or from the U.S. State Department.

Palau is a developing country of 20,000 that is dependent on U.S. development funds.

No Uighurs currently live on Palau, which has a Muslim population of about 400, mostly migrant workers from Bangladesh.

Made up of eight main islands plus more than 250 islets, Palau is best known for diving and tourism and is located some 500 miles (800 kilometers) east of the Philippines in the Pacific Ocean.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

National Historic Preservation Act meetings to support the proposed U.S. Marine Corps Relocation Project will be held to involve the public in the identification and possible treatments of historic properties on Tinian. The first meeting will be held at Tinian Elementary School on Tuesday September 22, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. A second public meeting on this subject will be held on Saipan at the Coastal Resources Management conference room on Wednesday September 23, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. For those who can't attend, we welcome your written comments sent to:

Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Environmental Planning (Code EV23)
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

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Traditional hut display opens at airport

Travelers at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport now have an opportunity to see how ancient Chamorros lived with the installation of a traditional hut interpretive display.

Two scale models of the huts were unveiled Sept. 16 with a small ceremony attended by local dignitaries led by acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Jerry Tan. The display was funded by Pacific Islands Clubs Saipan and marks the latest step in the Airport Improvement Plan under the Governor's Strategic Initiatives 2006-2010 for tourism growth.

MVA

One of two scale models of traditional Chamorro huts unveiled at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport on Sept. 16, 2009. The models are part of an interpretive exhibit that is the latest step in the continuing Airport Enhancement Project.

"Thanks to the generous support of private sponsors such as PIC, we continue to move forward with the Airport Improvement Plan to make a good first impression on visitors," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We hope that, after seeing this exhibit, visitors will find it more exciting and meaningful to encounter actual latte stones still standing on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

Limestone shafts and capstones—or latte stones—were the support pillars of ancient Chamorro structures from 1,000 A.D. to 1,521 A.D. The latte stones still standing in the Northern Marianas measure from four to 16 feet high, although larger shafts and capstone can be found in a quarry on Rota. The models were designed by Herman B. Cabrera Inc. and built by Heinz Staffler based on historic references in *Ancient Chamorro Society* by Lawerence J. Cunningham and other historic documentation.

The interpretive displays are located in the airport baggage claims area and in the departure lounge. Other projects completed under the Airport Improvement Plan are the Northwest Airlines/Delta children's play area, additional signage including a governor's welcome sign, and an eco-tourism photo display. ***(MVA)***

Judiciary to ink ESGR statement of support

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan will be signing a statement of support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization tomorrow, Sept. 22, at 4pm, at the CNMI House of Justice on Beach Road in Susupe.

The statement will remind that women and men of the community have put their lives on the line defending the liberties and freedoms everyone enjoys. Seventy members of the 100th Battalion Command 442nd Infantry returned recently to Saipan on leave from their station in Kuwait.

The mission of ESGR, an agency of the Department of Defense, is to gain and maintain employer support for National Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflict through mediation.

Over 100 CNMI citizens are members of the US Army Reserves deployed in the Middle East and Afghanistan. In additional to the 100th Battalion, they are members of the 368 MP and 302nd Quarter Masters.

"The entire community shares in the sacrifice. Families and employers especially should be recognized and appreciated for their support of our woman and men in harms way," Demapan said in prepared remarks for the occasion. The public is invited to attend. ***(PR)***

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/s/ **MICHAEL ADA**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
SITE EVALUATION SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) TRAINING FACILITY
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-011-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Site Evaluation Services.

The general scope of work is for site evaluation services of the existing facility for the development of design parameters and a scope of work to be used for Architectural/Engineering Design work to follow for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training Facility at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

*Note: The selected consultant will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the Architectural/Engineering Design services for the ARFF Training Facility improvements being advertised concurrently.*

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
2. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
3. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
4. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, October 19, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Date: September 18, 2009

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GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND

FINANCIAL AUDITS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-061

OPENING DATE: August 28, 2009 CLOSING DATE: September 28, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is soliciting sealed proposals to perform a financial audit of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF), Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), and Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund (GHLITF) for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2009 and 2010. To receive the RFP package, you may mail, fax or e-mail your request to:

David S. Demapan, Comptroller
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax No. 670-664-8080
E-mail: comptroller@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

/s/ Mark A. Aguon
Administrator

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 21, 1999

Continental cuts last direct flight to Japan

Continental Micronesia is dropping its Nagoya-Saipan service on October 1, 1999, the airline's last remaining direct flight between Japan and the CNMI, raising fears that it may hinder efforts by the Marianas Visitors Authority to revive the island's ailing tourism economy. In 1998, the traffic in the Nagoya-Saipan direct service declined 24 percent and has continuously fell this year, said Wally Dias, staff to the vice president for sales and marketing. From January to July 1999, it dipped 20 percent. This leaves Japan Airlines and Northwest Airlines as the only remaining carriers that maintain direct service from key cities in Japan to Saipan.

Diversion of 'boat people' not meant to deny asylum—INS

The use of Tinian as temporary holding area for illegal Chinese immigrants caught attempting to enter Guam is not an attempt to deny asylum to those who have legitimate application, according to federal officials. "That was not at all en effort to prevent people from seeking asylum. We devoted great level of resources," said Bo Cooper, general counsel of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. He said INS deployed asylum officers to Tinian to screen the more than 600 illegal aliens who were sent to temporary shelters on the island after the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted their boats near Guam. CNMI leaders earlier have said diverting these undocumented aliens to the island has been convenient to the federal government because Commonwealth laws forbid granting of asylum.

Sept. 21, 2000

Teno signs law vs domestic violence

Victims of domestic violence and spousal abuse now have more remedies to prevent such incidents from happening and to fight for their rights under a landmark law signed yesterday by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Public Law 12-19, otherwise known as the "Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act of 2000," aims to curb the growing number of families on the islands who have limited recourse to stop abuses at homes. Members of the Family Violence Task Force and lawmakers witnessed the signing ceremony held at the governor's office, nearly a month after completing the legislative process that cost advocates over four years of struggle.

MVA moves to address concerns of Japanese govt

In what could be the first concrete step to address concerns raised by the Japanese government on the safety of its travelers to the CNMI, the Marianas Visitors Authority said yesterday that they will ask the Legislature to pass a law that will regulate the operation of dive shops on the island. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said the tourism office has received information that some dive shops operated by Koreans have as much as 60 students with only one diving instructor. "We are quite concerned about this type of practice so we are going to ask the Legislature if they can enact a legislation to correct this bad practice. How can one instructor handle many students if an accident occurs?" he said.

Sept. 21, 2001

Retailers see signs of panic buying

Shipment delays and anticipation of a price hike on basic commodities drove local consumers to various grocery stores throughout the island to buy food items in huge quantities. With reports of subsequent deployment of military troops to several strategic areas abroad, store owners recorded a sudden increase in sales of canned goods and other food items, as consumers fear of food shortage. If the situation persists, store owners said they may be forced to enforce a limit on sale of basic commodities and food stuff to prevent hoarding.

$12M drop in government's revenue collection feared

The CNMI government is bracing itself for a possible decrease of $12 million in the revenue it expects to collect in Fiscal Year 2002. Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said that due to the present situation arising from the terrorist attacks in the US mainland, around $12 million of the revenues they expected to generate in Fiscal Year 2002 may not be realized. She explained that, when Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio submitted the $229 million Fiscal Year 2002 budget to the Legislature, there were $12 million in new revenues that the administration expected to get from new economic programs and the expected growth in tourism.

Teacher scholarships awarded to 5 Pacific islanders

The Pacific Resources for Education and Learning has awarded five scholarship grants to Pacific islanders to support their pursuit of a college degree in education in School Year 2009-2010.

Five scholarship recipients representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of Marshall Islands, and Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia were named at the 2009 Pacific Educational Conference held July 15-17 in Guam.

"PREL is proud to contribute to the effort of these fine educators-to-be in their pursuit of their educational goals for themselves and Pacific children," said PREL in a statement issued Friday.

Each year, PREL awards scholarships to teachers or teacher candidates who are in the process of completing an accredited teacher preparation program. The scholarships range in awards from $750 to 1,000 and to go to Pacific islanders who are committed not only to reaching their own potential, but providing greater educational opportunities for Pacific children.

One of the greatest challenges for K-12 education is the shortage of qualified teachers. In Pacific schools, the need for qualified teachers is even greater. To increase the number of qualified teachers in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific, the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning established the Pacific Teacher Scholarship Fund.

The 2009-2010 scholarship winners are:

■ Kristine Michaela M. Cruz, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Cruz graduated from Northern Marianas and is a full-time student pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in education while attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu. After graduating, Cruz plans to return to Saipan to teach.

■ Charity Faith Ileyagisiug, Woleai, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia

Ileyagisiug, who attended Neighboring Islands Central High School, Woleai, Yap State, FSM, is now a full-time student pursuing her Bachelors of Arts degree in education at the College of Micronesia-FSM in Pohnpei. Her major is Teacher Preparation, Elementary. She plans to return to Yap or one of the outer FSM islands to teach the elementary grade level.

■ Jalma Atalig Manglona, Guam

Manglona is from the island of Rota and attended Rota High School. She is full-time student pursuing her associate of science degree at Guam Community College and is looking to start her educational career on her home island of Rota focusing on Early Childhood Education.

■ Albina Rikjon, Republic of Marshall Islands

Rikjon attendance Assumption High School in Majuro, RMI, and graduated from McKinley High School in Honolulu. As a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, she is working to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and earning her certificate in teaching English as a second language. She looks forward to returning to the RMI to teach English language arts and or ESL.

■ Zin Thomas, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Thomas graduated from Marshall Islands High School and, since 2000, has taught 7th grade at Majuro Middle School. During the past eight years, he has taught full time, while attending the College of the Marshall Islands where he graduated with an Associate of Science degree in elementary education and in Teachers of English to speakers of other Languages. Thomas was recently accepted to attend Brigham Young University in Hawaii. His plans are to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in two years and return to the RMI to teach at the elementary level.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation that serves the educational community in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific, the continental United States, and countries throughout the world.

PREL bridges the gap between research, theory, and practice in education and works collaboratively with schools and school systems to provide services that range from curriculum to development to assessment and evaluation.

In addition, PREL administers the Regional Educational Laboratory Pacific, one of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories funded through the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education.

PREL has service centers in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PREL)***

LEGAL NOTICE
ATTENTION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice, gives notice that the property listed below was seized for forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 881, because the property was used or acquired as a result of a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (Title 21, U.S.C., Sections 801 et seq.). An owner or lienor may file a petition for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture with the Forfeiture Counsel, Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, HQs Forfeiture Response, P.O. Box 1475, Quantico, Virginia 22134-1475, pursuant to Title 19, U.S.C., Section 1618, and the regulations governing the petition process set forth in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9. Correspondence sent via private delivery must be sent to the Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, 2401 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. In addition to, or in lieu of petitioning for remission or mitigation, a person may contest the forfeiture of the seized property in UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT by filing a claim with the Forfeiture Counsel of the DEA pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a). Upon the filing of a claim under Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a), a claimant may request, pursuant to Section 983(f), release of the seized property during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding due to hardship. A petition, claim, or other correspondence shall be deemed filed with the Asset Forfeiture Section, when received by the DEA at either of the addresses noted above. Submissions by facsimile or other electronic means will not be accepted. The names of persons or businesses appearing in this notice are not necessarily criminal defendants or suspects, nor does the appearance of their names in this notice necessarily mean that they are the target of DEA investigations or other activities.

FIRST NOTICE
LAST DATE TO FILE NOVEMBER 5, 2009
PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
09-DEA-520925, Men's Rolex Datejust Watch Model 16233, Ser No E502946, Saipan, MP, Huang, Ya Bin, 08/20/09

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

4th Quarterly Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the Fourth Quarterly Meeting to take place on September 22, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saipan at the Council on Developmental Disabilities Conference Room. The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Establishment of Order
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes – July 6, 2009
VI. Committee Reports
  a. HR Committee
    i. Contract of Executive Director
  b. Call-A-Ride Committee Status Report
  c. Membership Committee Report
  d. Expiration of Members
VII. Reports
  a. Fiscal Officer
  b. Family 360 Updates/Report
  c. FS 360 Program Coordinator/System Navigator
  d. AT Program Coordinator
VIII. Old Business
  a. Review and Adoption of By-Laws
  b. Council Training in September
IX. New Business
  a. Election of CDD Secretary
  b. Election of Vice Chair
  c. State Plan 2011
X. Open Discussion
XI. Next meeting
XII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. Thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Sixty and 00/100 ($102,960.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2009.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

"NMHC IS A FAIR HOUSING PROVIDER, LENDER AND EMPLOYER"

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FOR A REMOVAL ACTION AT CNMI AG CHEMICAL DISPOSAL PROJECT SITE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") announces that the Administrative Record for the CNMI Ag Chemical Disposal Project (Athe Site@) located all over the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is available for public review and comment.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands ("CNMI") Division of Environmental Quality will be collecting unwanted, unlabelled, and unregistered pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and other farm-related hazardous wastes from farmers, hotels and resorts and residents on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota beginning in July 2009. These farmers and marketplace owners and operators will transport these hazardous wastes to four collections points (two (2) on Saipan, one (1) on Tinian, and one (1) on Rota.) The hazardous substances will be prepared and transported to the United States for treatment or disposal. Considering the accumulation of unlabelled and unregistered hazardous wastes and the potential deterioration of the containers in extreme weather conditions, EPA determined that the circumstances present a threatened or actual release of hazardous substances into the immediate area and to the aquatic environment. EPA determined that actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances, if not addressed, may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, welfare, or the environment.

The Administrative Record is a file that includes all documents upon which the EPA has based its decision to conduct a removal action at the Site. EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record and submit comments during the 30-day comment period, which begins with the publication of this notice and ends 30 days later. Copies of the Administrative Record will be available for public review at the following location:

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
Beach Road and Insatto Street
P.O. Box 501092
Saipan, CNMI 96950
Mangilao, Guam
Hours: Mon. – Fri.: 10am – 6pm
Saturday : 9am - 4pm
Sunday/Holidays: Closed

Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 403S
San Francisco, CA 94105

Hours: Monday through Friday:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Call for an appointment at (415) 536-2000

Written comments on the Administrative Record should be sent to:

J. Wong (SFD-9)
U.S. EPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
9/21/09

CNS-1691910

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Common-sense defense

The missile defense shield in Eastern Europe was one of the most ill-conceived security notions to come from the George W. Bush administration, but that's not stopping Republicans from calling foul now that President Obama has rightly put it to rest.

"Scrapping the U.S. missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic does little more than empower Russia and Iran at the expense of our allies in Europe," said House Minority Leader John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, following Obama's announcement Thursday. That's news to our allies in Europe. NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen called it a positive step, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was a "hopeful signal" of improved relations, and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced his support. Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer said the move wouldn't hurt his country's strong ties with the United States.

Boehner wasn't finished, though. "It shows a willful determination to continue ignoring the threat posed by some of the most dangerous regimes in the world," he said. That's news to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, originally a Bush appointee, who said that the Eastern European shield would be replaced by a system designed to counter the realistic threat of medium- and short-range missiles from Iran, not the nonexistent danger of long-range missiles that Iran doesn't, and may never, possess. Further, the new system can be deployed years sooner.

We're still waiting for former Vice President Dick Cheney to loom from the shadows and tell Fox News why Obama's decision endangers Americans. Yet the plain truth is that the missile shield involved immensely expensive technology that still doesn't work, designed for a threat that may never materialize. The shield was the biggest irritant in relations between the United States and Russia, whose support is badly needed on sanctions that could halt Iran's development of nuclear weapons, among other issues. Its abandonment is a victory for diplomacy, taxpayers, security and common sense.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

The day after the US stopped helping us

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

What if the United States all of a sudden stopped giving us all financial funding and technical assistance? How would we handle the situation? What kind of disaster would we suffer? This is the story of "the day after…." Picture this scenario.

On Sept. 21, 2009, the six 'clock news announces that effective Nov. 28, 2009, the United States has decided that instead of federalization, it will cease all financial funding and cease giving technical assistance to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This has been decided by the U.S. Congress because the people of the CNMI have voted that they no longer wish to remain in political union with the United States. From Nov. 28, 2009, we must take care of ourselves completely. We will be free from any entanglement with the U.S.

To many of us that seems totally unrealistic so we ignore the warning and switch to another channel to watch our favorite program. But when Nov. 28, finally comes, the following scenario occurs (which I hope will never happen).

One of the first to feel an instant reaction is the NAP or food stamp program. When the recipients line up for their allotment, they are told: "Sorry, there is no money. And we don't know until when." Thus 7,000 households return home empty handed and are not able to buy basic necessities.

Next the Public School System announces to all students that there will be no federally subsidized breakfasts and lunches. They will have to bring their own or go hungry. Also many other federally funded programs, including special education programs, are being dropped and teachers are being dismissed for lack of funds.

Meanwhile all the patients at the CHC have been told that Medicaid and Medicare will no longer pay for their bills. Cash or no medical treatments. As we drive down to talk to the people at DEQ, we notice that they are busy packing up to close their office. So we go down to CRM and find the people there doing the same thing. What is going on?

The Council of Developmental Disabilities closes its office and tells its clients it can no longer assist them with their disabilities. Later I receive a call from Northern Marianas Housing Corp. stating that it is closing and that someone I had referred for low income housing cannot be assisted.

I decide to drive down to the U.S. Post Office to pick up my mail. When I arrive I am told at the entrance that the post office is closed. No more U.S. delivered mail. It will come in later as international. And we will have to pay the added postage. Wow! I drive back up town stunned.

As I pass the Horiguchi Building where the U.S. District Court is located, I notice the furniture being taken out and loaded onto a truck. When I ask a guard, he tells me the U.S. District Court has closed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of the Interior and all the other U. S. government offices are closed as well.

When I get to my office I receive a call from the Commonwealth Port Authority that the federal government will no longer have any business with the seaport and the airport. I also learn that Public Works will receive no more CIP money. We will have to repair all the roads and build other projects with our own money.

But the real kicker is that there will be no "stimulus money!" The millions of dollars we expected have vanished. All offices related to the federal government are closed. And all funding is stopped. The CNMI is totally dependent on its own resources!

I don't know the exact dollar amount that amounts to, but I am told that it amounts to over $100,000,000 annually. Where is the CNMI going to get all this money? What are we going to do with no more U.S. government financial assistance and with no more technical assistance?

As I sit in my office trying to understand what has happened I receive a phone call from a friend of mine. He is shouting at the top of his lungs in anger and disbelief. He has been refused passage to go to Guam because his passport and all non-native issued U.S. passports have become invalid. Yes, all U.S passports held by non-U.S. born individuals have suddenly become worthless! And we cannot move to the United States without a visa and a reason for trying to live there as we are able to do now!

Trying to sum up what is happening and what the effect is, I suddenly realize that I am merely relating a fictional account. But what if it were to truly happen? Through the fictional account above, I hope that we begin to consider where we have come from with the assistance of the U.S. government and what could happen if we don't work together in union with the United States.

When I reflect on the economic progress we have made over the years and the development of our islands along with the tourist trade, I think of our neighboring Pacific islands. It's strange that I never hear of any of us migrating to them to find work and improve our lives. But we find many of our island neighbors coming here to live and work. Doesn't that tell us anything?

Too often we forget the benefits we have received over the years.

See THE DAY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I left my heart in San Francisco

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

My love affair with San Francisco began when the Golden Gate Bridge welcomed end-of-summer returnees and new Orient-originating Fall semester students aboard USS *Wilson* of the American President Lines one early August morning in '65. Barely 20 years old then, I was born the same year that an august audience of 50 States hammered the United Nations charter in the old Fairmont Hotel of the city in '45, offering humanity the prospect for peace.

It was from the same hotel that a crooner named Tony Bennett tugged at the public heartstrings with his rendition of *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*. My aorta had been snagged by St. Francis' city ever since.

I would return to a summer job at the St. Francis Hotel a year later. Celebrating my 21st birthday in the famed North "topless" Beach section, I was told that the workers union of United Airlines were on a protracted strike and the 45 percent tourists the airline brought to the city were not expected to show up that year. "Sorry," the chief hotel porter said, "but there will be no students' jobs this year."

The year before, "black is beautiful" was Stokeley Carmichael's mantra from across the Bay in Berkeley, a sentiment that also fueled the burning of a great swath of Watts district down south in Los Angeles, one of many social outbursts in the storms accompanying the emergent and exploding Afro-American soul.

Meanwhile, the tree-hugging ecotopians became popular in the Golden Gate park in '66, and baby boomers began a lovefest in Haight-Ashbury before the drug lords took their cut on the counter-culture head trips, and in the chaos, made the love habitat of hippiedom look like a slum in Bombay. Unfortunately, the acidhead trips prevailed over the genuine heart-journeys and authentic gut-forays into the awesome and the unknown. The Beatles' stoned *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* prevailed over the sentiments of Leonard Cohen's *Suzanne,* and the hoarse-voiced poetry readings of Rod McKuen led to stupor especially when accompanied by the steam off the ashes of Mary Jane's foliage. Yet, the mind may have been lost but the heart remained in San Francisco.

Maris (not her real name), a dear C*ebuana* friend from the Philippines 20 years later sought refuge in the anomie of the city by the Bay, raising a lovechild under the comfortable protection of a safe and secured marriage. The arrangement remains in place to this day, and while the son is about to leave hearth to follow the dictates of his own heart, Mama's heartthrobs confront the state of her mind from the unusual but authentic yearnings of the soul. She's smitten by the SF heart-full bite!

Another 20-some years later, Greg Mortenson of a missionary family to Tanzania emerged with an incredible story of a personal mission to promote peace in Pakistan-Afghanistan, one classroom at a time. A former nurse at UCSF Medical of the Bay Area, he attempted in '93 to scale K2 of the Karakoram Range in the disputed Pakistani Kashmir abut China on the north and India in the east, but an almost tragic ending to a failed attempt led to the instance of a personal vow to address the educational needs of Balti children living in one of the villages under the shadows of the Himalayas. The task thrust into Greg's hands was a similar response of Mt. Everest climber Sir Edmund Hillary's program of addressing educational and medical need of Sherpa villages in Nepal.

A strange serendipity converged this summer as my No. 2 daughter in Los Angeles gifted me with Mortenson's *New York Time's* bestseller book *Three Cups of Tea*, a book she has been gifting to friends since its publication. Mortenson's effort reminds me of my family and colleagues in the Order: Ecumenical's 10-some years spent pursuing disciplines of individual transformation and methods of social reformulation globally, one village at a time. In the audacious human development program of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, it is one person, one people, one-hour-on-the-hour every-hour 24-hours around the world, culminating in a series of symposium in "sharing approaches that work" on spirit methods and practices of eco-democracy in numerous fora to this day, one of which I attended in Houston early this month.

I visited SF last week and connected with friend Maris again. She now works at UCSF where Mortenson was a nurse. She also used to work for one of the semiconductor partners of Jean Hoerni, the eccentric who funded Mortenson's first school, and endowed the Central Asia Institute that promoted the building of schools on the southwest shadows of the Himalayan rooftop of the world. She in fact remembers Hoerni describing how the Shiite imam led one village in carrying lumber 18 miles up the mountain to underscore the local support for the classroom building program. She also attended Hoerni's memorial service at Stanford University and remembers Mortenson who delivered the eulogy, before Greg became a renowned personality.

There is an ongoing debate among development practitioners on whether individual transformation leads to social reformulation, or vice-versa. Is the charisma of a visionary like Mortenson necessary to effect structural revolution? Can Tina Sablan's intelligence and charm withstand the requirements of system and structural change?

Mortenson's response would be a resounding "YES," which means that it is not an "either/or" proposition. The initial impulse of necessity originates from individual genius and creativity, but to make the demonstrated effort viable and sustainable requires cooperative enterprise and corporate structure.

Many projects, programs and movements initiated by the charisma of a powerful personality is often criticized as self-promoting, egotistical, or simply being self-congratulatory! I find this dichotomy false. What difference does it make if one focuses on the awe, the awesome and the awed ones? They are all faces of the same reality. So are the lover, the love and the beloved? Research on product development, contrary to the opinion of Chamber of Commerce members, is not motivated by profit but by the satisfaction of creating something that will make a difference. Sustaining a product for market viability requires profit, but comes as a secondary to follow the creative process.

America in the last 10 years, especially post-9/11, operated on rationalized fear and justified anger to guide and explain national and local behavior, individual and corporate actuations. But the soul hungered for trust, the heart yearned for joy, and the spirit asserted its freedom. The experienced fear, anger, and humiliation of the last decade is shifting into the beginnings of trust, joy and freedom, even of Obamacare, and because the lines are getting legibly drawn, the chorus of "ayes' and "nays" come to define our possibilities and limits once again.

Sometime this week somewhere in San Francisco, I scribbled: "When your heart throbs and your body tremors, listen to your gut beat and dance to the rhythm of your soul." It is time to recover the wisdom of our bodies, the flutters of our hearts, and banish the fears of our minds. It is OK to leave your heart, as I did mine, in San Francisco. You might even discover that you did not leave it there after all, but took San Francisco along with you.

Direchun Natibu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Maseha silensiu i natibu gi madirogan direchoña gumubietnan maisague guine gi alacha, este na maña patte gi man-mafanagueta tradision respetu ginen mañainata. Kulan mohon ta osge kabales i fino i Saina `nai ha apagat i tautauña na yangin mapatmada hau, nae` lokue nu i otru bandan fasumu.

Lau i ma`agim na mañan natibu i mas na`mañau sa` ha punu gi hilu chaleg diniskontentoña. Chamu linalaisen, gaige fitme gi korasoña finafaisen hau gi mismu tiempu maseha silensiu, para un` fan atan sa` man-parehu hit ha` tautau. Esdesit, mauleg un` atan taimanu ineppeña yan kau asegurau hafa sessu kinemprendemu. Estague kustumbren tanu ni megai besis ti maripara nu i tautau hiyoñg.

Memegaiña gi ineppeña poduñg gi fina` chaleg. Ya soluke un` tuñgu hafa kustumbreña, ayu na palabra i "huñgan", dos kumeke ilegña. Ahe, ti ensegidas appruebaugue hafa finaisenmu; i otru pot chumaleg ñaihon. Atan todo señat giya guiya, dispues falag un` banda ya hagu mismu un` pesa kau magahet na ninae` hau bendision `sino mamatkilu sa` ti konfotme.

Ti mauleg i para un` chansa hafa intensioña. Gi finu man-amku, maulegña mamaisen ke linaisen. Pues muñga umatotganti gi hafa hiniñgogmu sa mas ha gi lache siempre kinemprendemu. Famaisen para un` tuñgu klaru hafa sustansian ineppen prohimumu.

Hombre Japones, siña un` faisen kau mauleg para un` usa tano`ña. `Nai ha yeñgyoñg iluña hulu yan papa` un` chuli kumu bendision. Lau i Japones siña ineppe hau "huñgan" lau trabiha ti "konfofotme" nu i finaisesenmu. Estague ayu i debi tautau hiyoñg u eyag dibuenamiente hafa gi magahet kustumbren tanu. I liñguahe yan sasañganña i uttimu ditetminasion hafa i sustansian ineppe!

Pot este na direchu mina munahalom i gobietno keha gi kotten federat para uma-ina kau propiu i intension nuebu na lai federat `nai ha punu direchon natibu gumubietnan maisague. Debi este de u maprotehe amanu i siña. Yangin debi ta gastaye, sin ditension maila ta suppotta ennao na intension pot direchon i manatatte. Yangin fehman ta protehe direchon famaguon natibu, pues ta o`onra sakrifisiun guelu yan guela `nai siha mismu mumattit siha pot amanu pagu `nai man-gaige hit. Sen mas, maila tafanachu pot direchun natibu!

■■■

Siempre u fattu ayu na haane `nai debi ta diskute hafa malago`ta pot tanu iya Marianas. Espesifikamiente, kau para ta diroga intension Attikulu Dose; ta amenda `sino u ta sustene i presente yan dididi fina tinilaika pot para tana fañaunau todos i tautauta? Teug este na asuntu ya kada unu debi u sañgan dibuenamiente hafa sentimientoñal.

■■■

`Nai sige hit man-amku, megai gi hagas hayuta adumididi manmaliñgu. Antes metgut tatautau hu. Pagu, gi finu famaguon sali de rusketi. Antes siñayu malagu miyas pot miyas sin bai` haguñg pulonun. Pagu, gigyun hu mueba adeñghu ti mafatuyu mediu miyas esta ume`eselau i gigat sanothu. Matachoñgyu ya hu ulus ñaihon. `Nai maguñg, hu kontinua talu mamokat na biahe sa` esta ti parehu yan antes. Gaige ha` i sensia lau ti tilinañgan esta nu i sensing amku`. De dios!

THE DAY

From Page 10

We come to feel that they are rights, not privileges. I am reminded of a famous cartoon character called Pogo. His famous line was: "We have met the enemy and it is us."

Please understand in all of this that I am not saying the U.S. is always correct in its actions or is always fair in its dealings because it is not. It too makes bad decisions and at times acts as a bully. But we must learn how to deal with that kind of treatment. And trying to break relations and getting into a confrontational position is not in the best of our interests.

We are facing a crossroad. To many of us, the fact that the United States is forcing the Federalization Act on us is making us emotional and closed-minded in our thinking. We feel we don't deserve this kind of treatment. But if we remain calm and begin to discuss the situation sanely and analyze it, we will find a solution to the so-called impending doom waiting on Nov. 28, 2009.

True, we will have to make many adjustments and some businesses more than others will be affected, including my businesses. But ranting and raving and cursing the U.S. will not solve anything except create greater misunderstanding. And if we are not careful "The Day After…" may just happen. Can we adjust to that?

Consider several facts: Did the idea of federalization suddenly appear, or did it evolve over the years from any of our actions? What are we doing to prepare for it? Should we miraculously receive an extension, what will we do with it to adapt to the anticipated changes? Do we believe that it may just go away? Have we done anything to date that warrants an extension?

However I am willing to join in the plea for a year's extension but only if we try to do two things very hard. One, we will examine ourselves and begin to realize that we must change our attitudes. As I see on stickers plastered around town: Attitudes are our real disabilities. Once we change them we will begin our growth. But if we cling to the belief that we are being picked on, we will get nowhere. These thoughts are negative and must change if we are to change to positive action.

Second, we must work closer with all U.S. government agencies in a cooperative manner. We must also realize why the United States is imposing federalization on us. We must understand that it was not a snap decision. It was long coming except we refused to see the handwriting on the wall. However I am not advocating tacit acceptance of all that the United States wants to do. We should intelligently and actively negotiate and compromise wherever we can.

In all this discussion above, I am stressing that we as a country must come together and develop a consensus of opinion and action. Our leaders must help get us to this point. We must have frank and open discussions both among ourselves and with the Homeland Security Department.

By understanding the real reason behind the U.S. insistence for federalization or let's call it "consolidation of all its possessions," we can and will work out a good working partnership. Think about it. Do we work together or do we worry about "the day after…." As someone once told me: "We cannot control what cards are given to us, but we can control how we play them."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

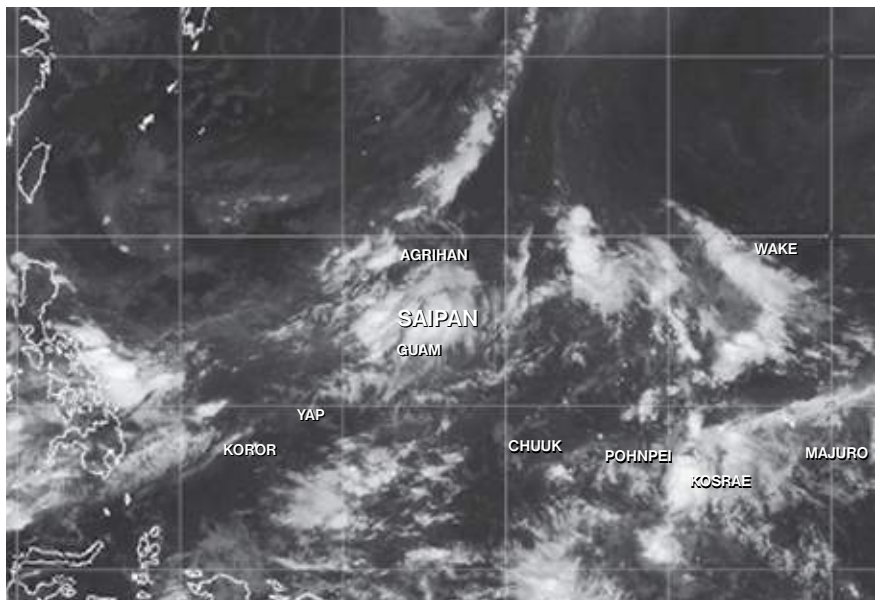
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲69	▼51
Hong Kong	Showers	▲87	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲96	▼68
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲72	▼52
Miami	Cloudy	▲89	▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲75	▼65
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼65
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼56
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼56
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Salem	Sunny	▲95	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲91	▼57
Seoul	Showers	▲68	▼50
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼64
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs northeastward from 15N130E to beyond 25N at 140E. Converging southwest winds northwest of Koror are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 8N and 11N west of 133E and northeast of Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 15N145E to 20N149E. A surface trough embedded within trade-wind flow runs from EQ154E to 11N154E. Scattered showers are occurring between 7N and 12N from 144E to 148E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing scattered showers southwest of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 17N164E to 12N160E and within 80 miles of 9N156E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over a broad area within 80 miles of lines from 6N178E to 10N177E to 12N180 and from 4N160E to 7N166E. This area includes Kosrae. Widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms are found between 4N and 10N from 166E to 175E. This area includes Kwajalein and Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:10 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
9:26 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:27 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:54 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:04 AM	7:51 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM	8:37 PM
Wednesday	9:57 AM	9:25 PM
Thursday	10:52 AM	10:16 PM
Friday	11:46 AM	11:07 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

24th International Coastal Cleanup

Tinian Chamber of Commerce members and their families and friends collected over 25 bags of trash at the Unai Dankulo or Long Beach during the 24th International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings employees haul bags of plastic bottles, soda cans, used tires, glass bottles and other debris collected at the TSL Plaza beach and surrounding areas. The debris would have otherwise gone into the water, thereby harming important marine habitats.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CTSI employees and their families collected over 30 bags of trash cleaning up Susupe Beach.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jolene Torres takes a group photo of the young and old supporters of the gubernatorial tandem of Juan "Pan" Guerrero and House Floor Leader Joe Camacho, after picking up trash at the Garapan Fishing Base and surrounding areas.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Yubert Alepuyo, an environmental specialist at the Division of Environmental Quality, collects plastic bags full of trash at the Carolinian Utt beach in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A volunteer helps put trash bags in a Division of Environmental Quality trailer truck at the Carolinian Utt beach in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Shawn Masga, top, of the Division of Environmental Quality throws filled trash bags into a 20x10-ft. container while a fellow DEQ employee looks on at the Garapan Fishing Base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Young members of the Saipan Awaodori Team collect trash at the Carolinian Utt beach in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lisa Eller, second from left, the federal programs outreach and publications coordinator at the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, conducts a brief environmental awareness lecture for young members of the Saipan Awaodori Team at a pavilion near the 13 Fishermen Monument along Beach Road in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A member of PDM Promoters helps young members of the Saipan Awaodori Team carry a plastic bag full of trash collected at the Carolinian Utt beach in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Official: FCC to propose 'Net neutrality' rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—The head of the Federal Communications Commission plans to propose new rules that would prohibit Internet service providers from interfering with the free flow of information and certain applications over their networks, an official at the agency said Saturday.

The Federal Communications Commission chairman, Julius Genachowski, will announce the proposed rules in a speech Monday at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank, the official said on condition of anonymity because news of the announcement had not been formally released.

The proposals would uphold a pledge Barack Obama made during the presidential campaign to support Internet neutrality—the equal treatment of Internet traffic. That would bar Internet service providers such as Verizon Communications Inc., Comcast Corp. or AT&T Inc., from slowing or blocking certain services or content flowing through their vast networks.

Without strict rules ensuring Net neutrality, consumer watchdogs fear the communications companies could interfere with the transmission of content, such as TV shows delivered over the Internet, that compete with services the ISPs offer, like cable television.

Genachowski

Internet providers have opposed regulations that would inhibit the way they control their networks, arguing they need to be able to make sure applications that consume a lot of bandwidth don't slow Internet access to other users.

"This is about whether I can turn off my cable TV and watch TV over the Internet," said Dave Burstein, editor of the DSL Prime broadband industry newsletter. "Comcast cares about this because they don't want people to turn off their cable TV."

The FCC adopted four principles on Internet policy in 2005. Two years later, it said it would study the business practices of high-speed Internet providers and consider whether a principle of nondiscrimination in traffic should be added.

Burstein thinks the FCC probably will adopt a fifth principle on nondiscrimination as part of the expected new rules.

The FCC's existing net neutrality principles have focused on high-speed Internet access delivered over wireline systems. But Google Inc. and other big technology companies, as well as consumer advocacy groups, have called for rules that would require wireless networks to be similarly open to all devices and applications.

UBS analyst John Hodulik said extending the principles to the wireless arena is going to be "a bit difficult because the regulation of wireless is very different than the regulation of the wireline networks, where the FCC has played a much stronger role."

Report on eve of G-20 sees protectionism rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—The world's major powers are repeatedly breaking their pledges not to erect trade barriers, and there's no sign the "protectionist juggernaut" will ease as countries recover from the global downturn, an influential monitoring organization said Friday.

Since first taking a no-protectionism vow at a summit meeting last November, the world's 20 major economies have been responsible for as many as 121 "blatantly protectionist" measures, with 134 more in the pipeline, said Global Trade Alert, a monitoring service overseen by the London-based Centre for Economic Policy Research and supported by the World Bank and other international organizations.

The findings, bound to come up at next week's Group of 20 summit in Pittsburgh, follow a report earlier in the week by the Geneva-based World Trade Organization that cited "continued slippage toward more trade restricting and distorting policies" by the U.S. and its major trading partners.

"The real economy may now be shrinking at a slower rate, and a recovery may be in view, but unemployment will continue to rise for some time to come. Pressures to protect jobs at home will grow and governments will find these pressures difficult to resist," said the new report.

"The protectionist juggernaut shows no sign of slowing down," it said.

At a meeting last November in Washington to chart a joint strategy for combatting the worst global economic downturn in decades, leaders of the 20 largest industrial and developing economies pledged to refrain from erecting new barriers to trade and investment or imposing new export restrictions. They renewed the pledge in April in London.

A U.S.-China dispute that erupted last weekend over Chinese tires and American chicken exports is just the latest example of how hard it has been for leaders to live up to that pledge.

Trade warfare is widely blamed for prolonging and expanding the Great Depression. And while the trade-distorting protectionist measures in the current downturn haven't risen to the level of those of the 1930s, they have caused "pain across large sections of the world economy" and could thwart recovery if allowed to continue, said the Global Trade Alert report.

AP

This is the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, top center, on the Allegheny River in downtown Pittsburgh on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, where the G-20 summit will take place Sept. 24 and Sept. 25.

The G-20 leaders at their Pittsburgh meeting should "drain the protectionist pipeline - and don't refill it," said Simon Evenett, an economics professor at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland and the principal author of the report.

Although the major powers have promised to work collectively to confront the downturn, some analysts suggest the fact that things appear to be getting better may be easing the pressure to work together on solutions as national self-interest reasserts itself. That includes a desire to protect battered home industries from overseas competition as governments look toward the day when they can dial back stimulus measures such as extra government spending and low interest rates.

At summit, Asian leaders to press for greater role

WASHINGTON (AP)—Asian leaders at this week's economic summit will demand a greater voice in the way global financial institutions make crucial decisions. Likewise, the world's established powers will have some demands of their own.

The Western countries who traditionally have wielded power at the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations will want Asia to cut greenhouse gases blamed for dangerous climate change and to slash barriers that prevent free trade.

China, with its powerful economy and diplomatic and military strength, will be a leading player at the summit. The other Asian-Pacific G-20 nations—Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and Indonesia—believe their growing importance deserves a bigger say in the world's financial decision-making. The G-20, which represents 80 percent of the world's economic output, is where they will make their case.

Protesters hope to highlight issues at G-20 summit

PITTSBURGH (AP)—An anti-war group plans to set up a tent city during the Group of Twenty economic summit this week to focus attention on the plight of women and children made refugees by war.

The group, Code Pink, will be among many groups and thousands of activists aiming to use the G-20 summit to spotlight causes including the environment and social injustice.

History shows protesters can successfully use media-saturated events to push their causes, such as when demonstrators at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul were credited with forcing South Korea's shift to democracy, said Mauro Guillen, a globalization expert at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

"They just want to attract the attention away from the official agenda and put other things on the agenda," Guillen said.

Obama: G-20 summit should assess economic progress

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says the world's leading economic powers have made progress in stabilizing the global financial system but much work remains to produce needed jobs and growth.

"The good news is that we've made real progress since last time we met - here at home and around the world," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday. The G-20 summit in Pittsburgh next week comes five months after the group of 20 nations with the world's leading and emerging economies met in London.

Obama said it will offer a good chance for a "checkup to review the steps each nation has taken—separately and together—to break the back of this economic crisis." He recalled that the April meeting came at the height of the crisis.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

How the major stock indexes fared on Friday

The stock market moved back into rally mode Friday after analyst upgrades boosted investor optimism about the economy. The market got a boost from a new economic forecast at Barclay's Capital, which raised its projection for growth in the nation's gross domestic product for first three months of next year to 5 percent from 3 percent. Procter & Gamble Co. rose after an analyst raised her rating on the consumer products company. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 36.28, or 0.4 percent, to 9,820.20. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.81, or 0.3 percent, to 1,068.30. The Nasdaq composite index rose 6.11, or 0.3 percent, to 2,132.86. ***(AP)***

New era for Disney as studio chief steps down

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—A new era has begun for the Walt Disney Co. following the abrupt resignation of longtime studio chief Dick Cook. After nearly four decades with the company, Cook announced Friday that he was stepping down immediately. In a statement, Cook said, "I have been contemplating this for some time now and feel it's the right time for me to move on to new adventures and in the words of one of my baseball heroes, Yogi Berra, 'If you come to a fork in the road, take it.'" Cook, 59, joined Disney in 1971 and moved up the ranks, becoming president of Buena Vista Pictures distribution in 1988. He became chairman of the studio in 2002.

Amazon widens private labels with electronics gear

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Consumers visit Amazon.com for deals on products from companies ranging from Apple Inc. to Zenith Electronics Corp. Now, the online retailer wants shoppers to check out stuff that carries Amazon's own brand name, too. Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. is beginning to sell a line of electronics accessories called AmazonBasics this weekend. It includes audio and video cables, computer networking cables and blank DVDs. Amazon already sells its Kindle electronic reading device, along with a variety of products under private label brands. For instance it offers a line of outdoor furniture called Strathwood and home and garden items that carry the Pinzon name. In choosing the name AmazonBasics, Ryder said the company hopes customers will associate it with high-quality, low-price items.

Nation

Ex-aide says Edwards fathered mistress' child

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—A man who once claimed to have fathered the child of John Edwards' mistress says in a book proposal the former presidential candidate is the real father and that Edwards and worked with his campaign finance chairman to hide that secret, according to a newspaper report published online Saturday.

The New York Times said the book proposal by former Edwards aide Andrew Young states he helped facilitate the affair between Edwards and Rielle Hunter. According to the newspaper, Young wrote that Edwards once told Hunter they would wed after Edwards' wife, who has cancer, died.

Edwards told Hunter that the ceremony would be held on a rooftop in New York and the Dave Matthews Bands would make an appearance, the newspaper said, citing its examination of the book proposal.

St. Martin's Press has said Young signed a book deal with the publisher in June and it involved a strict confidentiality agreement. A spokesman for the publisher did not immediately return a phone message and e-mail seeking comment Saturday.

Edwards has said the affair with Hunter ended in 2006. That year, Edwards' political action committee paid Hunter's video production firm $100,000 for work. Then the committee paid another $14,086 on April 1, 2007. The Edwards camp has said the latter payment from the PAC was exchanged for 100 hours of unused videotape Hunter shot.

AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009 file photo, Rielle Hunter is leaves the Terry Sanford Federal Building and Courthouse in Raleigh, N.C.

The same day, the Edwards presidential campaign had injected $14,034.61 into the PAC for a "furniture purchase," according to federal election records.

Edwards, a U.S. senator representing North Carolina from 1998 until his vice presidential bid in 2004, acknowledged in May that federal investigators are looking into how he used campaign funds. Grand jury proceedings are secret, and the U.S. attorney's office in Raleigh has declined to confirm or deny an investigation.

Edwards adamantly denied during an interview with ABC News last summer that he had fathered a child with Hunter, and he welcomed a paternity test. His wife, Elizabeth, has said she doesn't know if her husband is the father.

Young said in 2007 he was the child's father. Hunter said around the same time that Young was the father and the birth certificate does not list a father's name.

Michael Critchley, Hunter's attorney, declined to comment Saturday. A lawyer for Young did not immediately return messages left at his office Saturday.

Joyce Fitzpatrick, a spokeswoman for Edwards and his attorney, Wade Smith, said that Edwards would not comment Saturday. Smith has said Edwards may make a statement at some point in the future about the paternity of Frances Quinn Hunter, who is 19-months old, but there was no timetable for that.

Young hasn't spoken publicly since saying he was the father in 2007 and has repeatedly ignored reporter requests for interviews.

Obama rolling into week of high diplomatic stakes

By BEN FELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The unrelenting global troubles confronting Barack Obama are about to converge on him all at once, providing a stern test of leadership for a first-year president who has pledged to "change the world."

In a span of four days, Obama will plunge into the politics of the United Nations and host a summit in Pittsburgh on the world's wobbling economy. The international stage is coming to him, and no one standing on it with him will have higher stakes.

Obama is under pressure to push along stalled Mideast peace, prove the United States is serious about climate change and rally allies against the nuclear threats of Iran and North Korea. Restless leaders in Europe and elsewhere are pressing Obama to reform risky U.S. financial behavior and get Congress on board.

He also bears the load of two inherited wars that now bear his imprint - the one he's winding down in Iraq and the one that's widening in Afghanistan. Eight years after the Sept. 11 attacks, Obama must hold together international will as he tries to keep Afghanistan from becoming an al-Qaida launching pad again.

The talks have the potential to be galvanizing moments or opportunities lost.

"Leadership is not just telling people what you want, as the Bush administration discovered. Leadership is getting people to do what you need them to do," said Jon Alterman, a senior fellow in Middle East policy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former State Department official in President George W. Bush's first term.

Obama will have his chances.

His first speech to the 192-member General Assembly will outline his view of leadership, emphasizing a new brand of cooperation as if to underline he is not Bush. As U.N. ambassador Susan Rice described the message: "Everybody has a responsibility. The U.S. is leading anew. And we are looking to others to join."

Obama will be the first U.S. president to be chairman of the Security Council, whose rotating presidency happens to be in U.S. hands this month during the annual meeting of the General Assembly. He expects to emerge from that special summit on arms control with a resolution that advances his goals of a nuclear-weapons free world.

Experts: Defense in Yale killing has tough job

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Defending a Yale University lab technician charged with murder against what appears to be a mountain of forensic evidence might mean trying to convince jurors that the crime scene was contaminated because police didn't immediately shut down the lab where the victim was found, legal experts said.

Le

Raymond Clark III is charged with murder for the death of Yale graduate student Annie Le. Le vanished from a research building in Yale's medical school complex on Sept. 8; her body was found hidden in a wall recess five days later, on what was to be her wedding day.

Police charged Clark after reviewing some 300 pieces of evidence, including DNA samples taken from him a day before he was arrested. Clark's bond was set at $3 million, and he did not enter a plea.

Officials found DNA from Le and Clark in the ceiling and in the recess where Le's body was found, a law enforcement official familiar with the investigation told The Hartford Courant newspaper on condition of anonymity.

The evidence is so overwhelming that police believe they don't necessarily have to uncover Clark's motive for the killing to convince jurors of his guilt, according to a law enforcement official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

That likely leaves Clark's attorneys with going after how that evidence was gathered—rather than what it showed—and have prosecutors defend their decision not to seal the lab building until Le's body was found.

"You attempt to attack the investigative process as well as the conclusions," said William Dow III, a prominent New Haven-based defense lawyer, who does not represent anyone in this case.

ACROSS THE NATION

Colo. man taken into custody in fed terror probe

DENVER (AP)— Federal authorities have arrested a 24-year-old airport shuttle driver and his father as part of terrorism probe in New York and Colorado, a spokeswoman for the younger man's defense team says. Najibullah Zazi and his father were taken into custody at his suburban Denver apartment by FBI agents at 9:55 p.m. on Saturday. Zazi's spokeswoman, Wendy Aiello, says the two were then taken to FBI headquarters in Denver. Zazi's attorney, Art Folsom, was meeting the father and son at FBI headquarters. It's not clear what charges the men may face.

Aides: Paterson urged to reconsider NY gov race

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Two senior New York Democratic advisers said Sunday that top national party leaders have asked Gov. David Paterson to consider withdrawing from the 2010 governor's race. The New York Times reported Saturday that it was President Barack Obama who requested that Paterson withdraw. The newspaper said political advisers made the suggestion and Obama approved it. One of the advisers said that party leaders in Washington were concerned about Paterson's political weakness, believing his office was too important to risk losing. The Democratic source was unsure what the governor's response would be.

NASA launches rocket, dozens report strange lights

WALLOPS ISLAND, Va. (AP)—NASA says it successfully launched a rocket in Virginia as part of an experiment, and the blast may have caused dozens of people to report seeing strange lights in the sky. The space agency said it launched the Black Brant XII on Saturday evening to gather data on the highest clouds in the Earth's atmosphere. About the time of the launch, dozens of people in the Northeast started calling local television stations to report seeing strange lights. The calls came from as far away as Boston, which is about 380 miles northeast of the launch site. The rocket is designed to create an artificial cloud. NASA hopes the experiment will provide information on the formation and properties of noctilucent clouds, which occur at high altitudes.

Va. slayings suspect put violent rap songs on Web

FARMVILLE, Va. (AP)—A California man who rapped about murder in songs posted on his MySpace page was arrested Saturday by investigators who suspect him of killing four people in a central Virginia college town. Richard Alden Samuel McCroskey III, 20, of Castro Valley, Calif., was taken into custody at Richmond International Airport, where authorities believe he tried to catch a flight back to California. Officers found McCroskey asleep in the baggage claim area, Farmville police Capt. Wade Stimpson said. McCroskey is being held in Farmville, where he faces charges of first-degree murder, grand larceny of an automobile and robbery, Stimpson said. McCroskey is scheduled to appear Monday in court, when he can either hire an attorney or have one appointed.

Woman's stabbed body found at Central Park hotel

NEW YORK (AP)—The body of a naked woman with her throat slashed and a knife sticking out of it was found Saturday at a luxury hotel next to Central Park, police said. Investigators looking into the death at the Jumeirah Essex House hotel, on the park's southern edge, said the woman appeared to be in her 30s. A maid found the body face down on the kitchen floor in a condo at the Manhattan hotel on Saturday afternoon, police said. Guests at the art deco landmark, which opened in 1931 and features 509 luxury rooms and suites up to 2,500 square feet, said they didn't know a body had been found until newspaper and television reporters showed up and started asking questions. But they said they had noticed an increase in security.

Asia

Taliban leader tells 'invaders' to study history

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban's reclusive leader said in a Muslim holiday message Saturday that the U.S. and NATO should study Afghanistan's long history of war, in a pointed reminder that foreign forces have had limited military success in the country.

The message from Mullah Omar comes less than a month before the eighth anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan to oust the Taliban for hosting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

This year has been the deadliest of the conflict for U.S. and NATO troops, and political support at home for the war is declining. Taliban attacks have spiked around Afghanistan in the last three years, and the militants now control wide swaths of territory.

AP

Afghan National Police officers are seen during a training session with U.S. Military Police at a combat outpost in the Jalrez Valley in Afghanistan's Wardak Province on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.

On Saturday, bombs targeting military vehicles in the south where the Taliban are increasingly powerful, killed six people.

New strife as Thais mark 3rd anniversary of coup

BANGKOK (AP)—As thousands of demonstrators marked the anniversary of a 2006 coup in the Thai capital Saturday, a rival group of protesters clashed with police and villagers near the Cambodian border, showing the country's long-running political crisis is far from settled.

In the three years since the coup there have been multiple violent demonstrations, court rulings that have purged two prime ministers from power, and massive damage to the tourist industry after protesters shuttered the airports last year.

The country now appears locked in an endless cycle of protest and counter-protest by supporters and opponents of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in the Sept. 19, 2006 coup on accusations of corruption, abuse of power and disrespect for the constitutional monarch. Thaksin himself remains in self-imposed exile, able to rally his followers only by phone.

"Thai politics three years after the coup has become more confused, convoluted, and the stakes have increased. There has been no progress, no headway towards reconciliation and reform," Thitinan Pongsidhirak, a political scientist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University said this week. "The political situation has become more combustible."

Fracture healed by US forces, Afghan boy goes home

DAY KUNDI PROVINCE, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan father left the mountains on foot, carrying his 2-year-old son, but the health clinic could not treat the skull fracture that blinded the toddler and immobilized his left side. By chance the next day, two American medics stopped by the clinic in Day Kundi Province to check on another patient.

The rooftop fall that cracked Malik's skull Aug. 19 set in motion a chain of events that took the boy from his remote village to the U.S. military hospital in Kandahar, where doctors patched the tear in his brain and replaced the bone. On Saturday, his crescent-shaped wound healed, Malik—the baby in the family of five children—headed home with his father, Khodadad.

Khodadad carried Malik out to the gray truck hired to drive the rocky roads of central Afghanistan back to Ashtarlay, a northern district of Day Kundi. But for Khodadad, who traveled 50 miles (80 kilometers) in the first futile effort to reach the Afghan clinic, the return was worth every uncomfortable bump.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine Muslim rebels warn of new fighting

SULTAN KUDARAT, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group warned Saturday that fighting could break out again if efforts to revive peace talks fail, saying a new truce remains fragile. Months of deadly clashes in the south eased in July when the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front separately declared a halt to offensives to allow the Malaysian-brokered talks to resume and a large number of displaced villagers to return home. Both sides agreed last week in Malaysia to allow still-unspecified foreign countries and private groups to observe the talks and ensure compliance in any agreement. Rebel leader Murad Al Haj Murad said the attempts by the government and his 11,000-strong group to settle the decades-long rebellion could be the last.

Pakistan: Mumbai suspects to be charged next week

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court will indict seven suspects in the Mumbai attacks in the coming week, but India needs to provide evidence against the head of a banned Islamist group Pakistan is investigating in the plot, a top official said Saturday. Interior Minister Rehman Malik's statements appeared designed largely to assure India that Pakistan is serious about bringing justice to the perpetrators of the November siege that killed 166 people and ratcheted up tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals. "I want to tell India that we want to be your friend," Malik told reporters in Islamabad. He also said that Pakistan was formally investigating Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, a founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba—the first apparent confirmation that he was being probed in connection to the Mumbai attacks. Saeed now heads Jamaat-ud-Dawa, an alleged charity banned by Pakistan after the U.N. declared it a front for Lashkar.

Pakistan police raid US-contracted security firm

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Police raided a Pakistani security firm that helps protect the U.S. Embassy on Saturday, seizing 70 allegedly unlicensed weapons and arresting two people. The incident follows a series of scandals surrounding American use of private contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan. The raid on two offices of the Inter-Risk company is especially sensitive because of a slew of recent rumors and media reports that U.S. embassy expansion plans in Pakistan include hiring the security firm formerly known as Blackwater. The U.S. says there is no truth in the reports, but they have resonated with the many Pakistanis familiar with allegations that Blackwater employees were involved in unprovoked killings of Iraqi civilians.

World

Russia says it won't deploy missiles near Poland

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia said Saturday it will scrap a plan to deploy missiles near Poland since Washington has dumped a planned missile shield in Eastern Europe. It also harshly criticized Iran's president for new comments denying the Holocaust.

Neither move, however, represented ceding any significant ground. A plan to place Iskander missiles close to the Polish border was merely a threat. And while the Kremlin has previously criticized Tehran for questioning the reality of the Holocaust, Russian leaders have refused to back Western push for tougher sanctions against Iran.

It still remains unclear whether Moscow will make any significant concessions on Iran and other issues in response to President Barack Obama's move to scrap the Bush-era plan for U.S. missile defense in Poland and the Czech Republic.

A call for U.S.-Russian cooperation on missile defense
NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen proposed Friday the U.S., Russia and NATO link their missile defense systems, a day after the U.S. shelved a plan for an Eastern European defense shield.
BELARUS
BRITAIN
RUSSIA
Five sites near Moscow
Missile defense installations
U.S.
The U.S. scrapped plans for sites in Poland and the Czech Republic
UKRAINE
AZERBAIJAN
KAZAKHSTAN
U.S.
Launch
Radar
Russian
Launch
Radar
SOURCES: Missile Defense Agency; Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance; Russian Strategic Nuclear Forces
AP

Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin told Ekho Moskvy radio Saturday that Obama's move has made the deployment of Iskander short-range missiles in the Kaliningrad region unnecessary.

He described Obama's move as "victory of reason over ambitions."

"Naturally, we will cancel countermeasures which Russia has planned in response, one of which was the deployment of Iskander missiles in the Kaliningrad region," Popovkin said.

Families bear brunt of prisoners' plight in Iran

BEIRUT (AP)—The middle-aged woman demanded to know the fate of her daughter, Fariba Pajooh, who had been picked up by three Intelligence Ministry agents a few days earlier.

"She will be with us for a few days," the prosecutor told her calmly. "Don't worry, she's in a good place."

"What's the charge against her?" the mother wanted to know.

"It's said she had some foreign connection," the prosecutor replied vaguely.

More than a month later, 29-year-old reformist journalist Pajooh is still in jail, along with thousands of others in Iran, and her mother still doesn't know why. Her mother spoke to The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Tehran on condition that she be referred to as Mrs. Pajooh to protect herself.

Mrs. Pajooh, her husband, her brother and the prisoner's husband take turns every day to visit the General Prosecutor's Office, or Dadsara, in the hope of finding some clue as to why their loved one was arrested Aug. 28 and whether she would be released anytime soon. Their ordeal offers a glimpse into the attempts of thousands of families to find loved ones who were detained in the crackdown following the disputed June 12 presidential election.

Uribe changes tack on release of rebels' hostages

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—President Alvaro Uribe's government said Saturday it is dropping a demand that Colombia's main rebel group release all its police and military hostages at once, possibly opening the way for negotiations.

Colombia's peace commissioner, Frank Pearl, said relatives of the hostages had met with Uribe and asked him to help secure their loved ones' freedom.

"The national government has accepted the family members' petition," Pearl said, reading from a brief statement.

Uribe said in a speech that he accepted the family members' request for "solidarity" despite concerns that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, could use individual releases for political bargaining.

He added that the government would ask the International Red Cross and the Roman Catholic Church to "obtain a guarantee from the FARC for the release of the entire group." The rebels hold at least 24 police and military personnel in jungle hideouts.

Earlier this year, the FARC had announced it would free army Cpl. Pablo Emilio Moncayo, who has been held for more than a decade, and another soldier, Josue Daniel Calvo Nunez, who was captured in April.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq arrests 3 on antiquities charges

BAGHDAD (AP)—Authorities in northern Iraq have arrested three men on charges they were trying to traffic stolen antiquities, including the bust of a Sumerian king, a local army commander said Saturday. The three were arrested in a sting operation after attempting to sell one of the artifacts for $160,000 to an undercover intelligence officer of the Iraqi Army's 12th division in a village southwest of Kirkuk, division commander Maj. Gen. Abdul Amir al-Zaidi told reporters. The sting operation, which took place around two weeks ago, was set up based on intelligence from local residents, he said.

Mexico City boosts subway security after shootings

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Police started randomly checking people for guns in the capital's 175 subway stations Saturday after a man opened fire inside a crowded station, killing two people and causing eight injuries. Mexico City Attorney General Miguel Angel Mancera said the gunman, Luis Felipe Hernandez, 38, who was wounded by police, was undergoing psychological exams to determine if he is mentally unstable. Authorities have 48 hours to decide whether to send him to a psychiatric ward or have him stand trial. Six of those injured in the attack had been released from hospitals while two remained under treatment, according to a news release from the city government. One man was listed in serious condition. Mancera earlier had said 10 were injured, some from bullets and some from falls in the scramble to escape the shooting.

Somali official: 6 more UN vehicles missing

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Islamic insurgents on Friday vowed to launch more attacks after using stolen U.N. cars in an assault on an African Union peacekeeping base in Somalia that killed 21 people. A Somali official said that six more U.N. vehicles were unaccounted for. Thursday's suicide car bombings were the deadliest single attack on AU peacekeepers since they arrived in the lawless African nation in 2007. The bombings also underscored links between al-Qaida's terror network and Somalia's homegrown insurgency. In a message posted Friday on jihadist forums, the Global Islamic Media Front said it was speaking on behalf of Somali insurgent group al-Shabab and vowed more attacks.

Health & Fitness

The flu and exercise don't play together

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Far be it for die-hard fitness buffs to let a little fever stop them from doing their regular workout—or for driven Pop Warner football players to miss a practice. But it's not actually laudable to laugh in the face of an illness such as the H1N1 virus.

"The best information we have says complete bed rest is best," says David Nieman, director of the human performance lab at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. And forget the idea you can sweat out the flu through intense exercise: "That's a myth," he says. "A big myth."

Working out, especially at a vigorous pace for a long stretch, may do more harm than good.

"We know that heavy exertion causes a transient downturn in immune function that can last from a few hours to a day," says Nieman, a professor of health and exercise science. During heavy, prolonged physical exertion, he adds, stress hormone levels such as cortisol rise, causing immune cells to function less efficiently. "During this downturn, if you have a virus, it will multiply at a higher rate and make you sick."

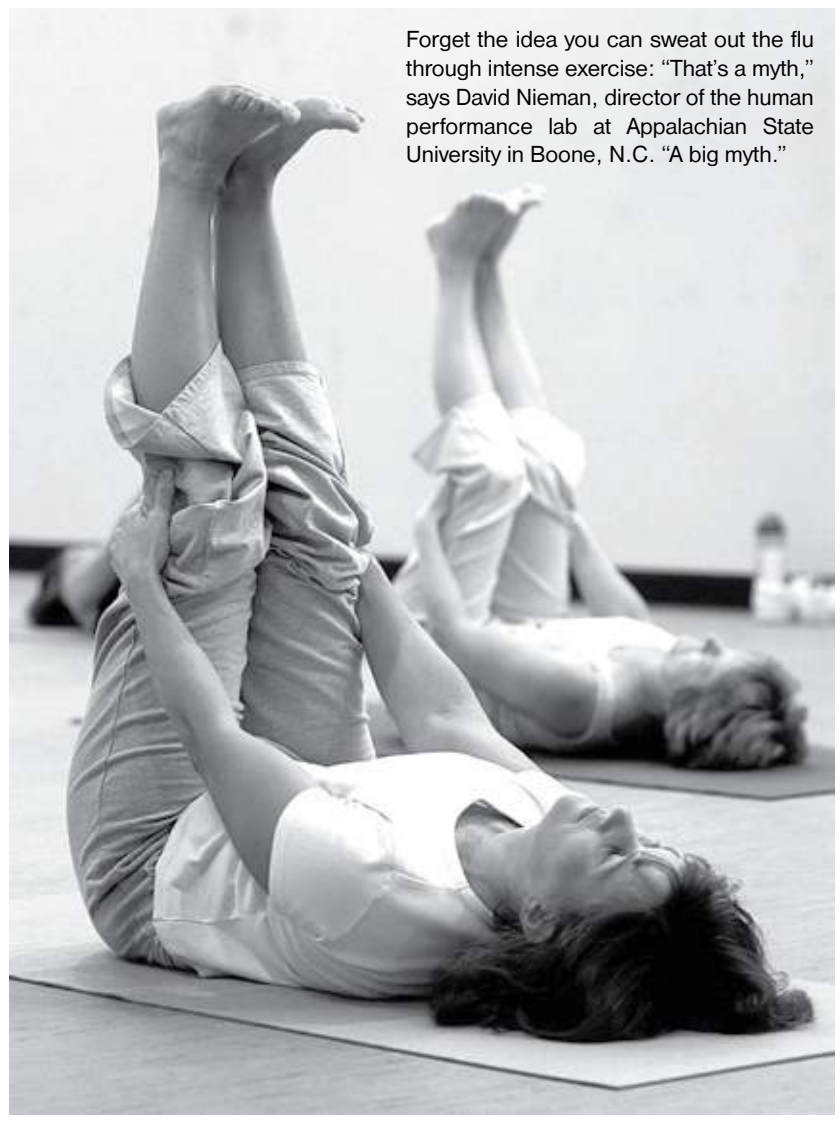
In research published in the journals Sports Medicine and Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise, Nieman has found that immune function is compromised among marathoners after a long race. They're simply not as effective as people who haven't overexerted themselves at fighting off invading viruses.

Although much of the data in the area of exercise and viruses have been done on animals, Nieman says even those show that—when dealing with a systemic virus with symptoms of general fatigue, aches and pains—rest is necessary. "If any level of exercise is engaged in," he says, "you risk making the illness more severe."

Raising body temperature may be chancy as well, he adds. "It makes physiological sense. If your core temperature is already up and you dare to add to it, you have to keep in mind that viruses like to multiply with higher body temperatures. Everything is multifactorial, and that may be one factor."

Common sense is always a good rule to follow when it comes to being sick, but not everyone subscribes to that. Nieman says he was training for a marathon when he got a mild flu. The day after his fever broke, he ran, only to be slammed with symptoms again. "I completely relapsed," he says. "It was dumb. I knew all this stuff, but that's what drives a lot of athletes, that need to get back into the race."

Dr. Peter Katona isn't completely anti-exercise for those who may be dealing with a virus but cautions regular exercisers to heed what their bodies are telling them. "If you feel up to it, you can do some light working out, like stretching," says the associate professor of clinical medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles who specializes in infectious diseases. "Do things that aren't going to give you a lot of sweat and fatigue. Don't push yourself, but let your body be your guide." And stay home—don't go to the gym to exercise and spread the infection.



Forget the idea you can sweat out the flu through intense exercise: "That's a myth," says David Nieman, director of the human performance lab at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. "A big myth."

CDC: First swine flu vaccines may be nasal spray

ATLANTA (AP)—The first doses of swine flu vaccine may all be the nasal spray version, government health officials said Friday.

The government has said a trickle of vaccine will be available in early October, but on Friday they defined the size of that trickle - an estimated 3.4 million doses.

Currently it looks like all of them will be a nasal spray vaccine that is approved only for healthy people ages 2 to 49, said Dr. Jay Butler, an official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The nasal spray, called FluMist, is not recommended for some of the people most in danger of severe swine flu complications. That includes pregnant women, children younger than 2, and people with asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases.

However, it's possible that some vaccine shots will become available by the first week of October as well, said Butler, chief of the CDC's swine flu vaccine task force.

Flu shots are made of killed influenza virus, while FluMist is a live but weakened strain. The nasal spray is only approved in the United States, and is made by the Maryland-based MedImmune, an AstraZeneca PLC subsidiary. Four other companies are making flu shots for the U.S.

Seniors largely spared of swine flu

MIAMI (AP)—Seniors who for years have made flu shots a fall ritual are being sent to the end of the line for the swine flu vaccine. And the reason—their age group seems to have a bit of immunity—appears to have warded off most potential grumbling.

"I don't worry about getting it," said 89-year-old Robert Goodman, a Boca Raton retiree. "At this age, who the hell cares? You take it as it comes."

Across Florida, a retirement dreamland that is home to about 3.2 million people 65 and older, seniors who are typically plagued by nearly any spreadable illness are just happy they appear to have been given a reprieve from the new flu virus that has run rampant through schools, colleges and campsites.

In an Associated Press-GfK poll released last week, 82 percent of seniors said they're likely to seek a swine flu shot. That's higher than any other age group surveyed. But in interview after interview, they also expressed wide acceptance of the government's orders to put other, more at-risk people ahead of them.

"We've been exposed to so many illnesses in our lifetime that if there's anything out there to be exposed to, we've probably already been exposed to it," said Jill Svoboda, a 68-year-old retired teacher from Bushnell, Fla. "I've had a damn good life. I'd like it to continue, but if it doesn't, them's the breaks."

CDC: 1 in 3 teen girls got cervical cancer vaccine

ATLANTA (AP)—One in three teenage girls have rolled up their sleeves for a vaccine against cervical cancer, but vaccination rates vary dramatically between states, according to a federal report released Thursday.

The highest rates were in Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, where more than half of girls ages 13 through 17 got at least one dose of the three-shot vaccination. The lowest rates were in Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina, where fewer than 20 percent got at least one shot.

The report is the first to give state-by-state rates for Merck's Gardasil vaccine. It targets strains of the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus that cause about 70 percent of cervical cancers. It came on the market in 2006.

Health officials recommend that girls get the shots when they are 11 or 12, if possible, before they become sexually active so they have immunity before they are first infected. The shots are approved for females 9 through 26.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study involved a 2008 telephone survey of the parents of nearly 18,000 adolescents, who allowed researchers to check their kids' vaccination records.

Nationally, there was an increase in the percentage of teens ages 13 to 17 vaccinated against meningitis, tetanus, diphtheria and other illnesses. The agency also noted a rise since 2007 in the percentage of teenage girls who had gotten at least the first dose in the three-shot vaccination series against cervical cancer.

In 2007, about 25 percent had gotten a first dose of the vaccine. Last year, it rose to about 37 percent.

HEALTH TIPS

When to consult your doctor; virus checks; first aid

By LINDSAY MINNEMA
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

It's the easily overlooked recommendation that appears at the beginning of most workout videos or in small type on your treadmill: Consult your doctor before beginning a new exercise regimen. But how do you know when this is necessary? The Mayo Clinic suggests you talk to a physician about your workout plans if any of the following apply:

■ You've had a heart attack.

■ You have asthma; diabetes; or lung, heart, liver or kidney disease.

■ You have arthritis or osteoporosis or have had joint replacement surgery.

■ You experience dizziness or loss of consciousness.

■ You smoke or recently quit smoking.

■ You take medicine to manage a chronic condition.

Of course, once you begin your exercise program, persistent pain, shortness of breath or dizziness are all very good reasons to pay your doc a visit.

■■■

It's almost inevitable: Once one person in the family gets sick, others will soon follow. The home provides prime opportunity for sharing disease. Here's what you can do to avoid spreading this season's viruses, including H1N1, to your kids or spouse:

■ Close-contact respiratory droplets—the result of a sneeze or cough—provide perfect opportunity for spreading disease. Remember what your mother always told you, and cover your mouth with tissues, an elbow or shoulder.

■ Wipe down hard surfaces with disinfectant. Viruses can live for 1 to 7 days on nonporous surfaces, such as table tops, door knobs or keyboards.

■ Consider investing in surgical or dust masks for the family when someone is home sick. If anything, it will discourage the hand-face contact that can spread disease.

■ Above all else, wash your hands regularly. Make sure your kids, even the youngest, know how to do it properly.

■■■

Are you prepared for blisters, a scissor accident, a twisted ankle ... or worse? Better check that your first aid kit is fully stocked. Make sure it includes necessary medications and emergency phone numbers. The American Red Cross also recommends the following for a standard household kit: absorbent compress dressings, adhesive bandages (in assorted sizes), adhesive cloth tape, antibiotic ointment, antiseptic wipes, aspirin, a blanket, an instant cold compress, nonlatex gloves, hydrocortisone ointment, scissors, roller bandages, sterile gauze pads, a nonmercury thermometer, tweezers, and a first aid instruction booklet

You can also purchase ready-to-go emergency and first aid kits from the Red Cross at redcrossstore.org.

Life & Style

Airman's bracelet lost in World War II returned

By DAN JOLING
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Jack Harold Glenn was a World War II bomber navigator who was killed during a firefight as he flew a mission over Germany in 1944, his body coming to rest in a field in a rural village.

The silver bracelet Glenn was wearing was given to a 16-year-old boy who helped retrieve his body. He held onto the bracelet ever since, a remembrance of the fallen American airman.

Sixty-five years later, the bracelet is returning to Glenn's sister in Alaska thanks to an enterprising World War II veteran who uncovered the relic on a recent trip to the German village.

Helen Glenn Foreman of Anchorage says she will receive her brother's bracelet in a week or so and plans to send it to a museum in Matagorda County, Texas, where Glenn grew up.

"Anything that's gone to the museum may inspire or make people grateful or add to history," Helen Glenn Foreman said Wednesday. "I think we're all better people if we know and appreciate history."

Foreman heard of the bracelet for the first time last week from family and friends of 90-year-old Bernerd Harding, a New Hampshire man who traveled this month to Klein Quenstedt, Germany, a village southwest of Berlin, on a quest to find his pilot's wings.

His B-24 bomber was shot down the same day as Glenn's. Harding bailed out and was captured and held in a farmhouse. Fearing he'd be beaten or shot because he was a pilot, Harding dug a shallow hole in the dirt basement and buried his wings.

He didn't find the wings on the trip but he was handed the bracelet by Heinz Kruse.

On July 7, 1944, Kruse was planting potatoes in a field owned by his father when an American B-24 bomber appeared overhead. German fighters were close behind, raking the bomber with machine gun fire.

"It broke apart in the air, and fell to the ground," Kruse said.

Kruse, then 16, rushed home. At midday, an adult told him to help a schoolmate driving a horse-pulled wagon retrieve the body of a dead American airman that had landed in a field outside the town.

As they loaded the body onto the cart, the boys noticed the soldier was wearing the silver bracelet. They presented the bracelet to the mayor, who wrote down the name, Jack H. Glenn, and gave the bracelet back to Kruse.

"He said, 'You can keep it as a remembrance,'" Kruse said.

For 65 years, that's what Kruse did.

"It was always a souvenir ... it was certainly a grave incident in my life story," said Kruse, now 81 and still living in Klein Quenstedt. "That's why I kept it."

When he saw Harding, he decided to see if the bracelet could be returned to Glenn's family.

The only living member of his immediate family is his sister Helen, older by 17 months. She was 22 when Glenn was reported missing in action.

She was already married, waiting in Seattle to join her husband in Alaska. He got a job at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, but Helen as a dependent was not allowed to follow until she got her own Alaska job in military personnel.

She remembers she had not worried about her brother.

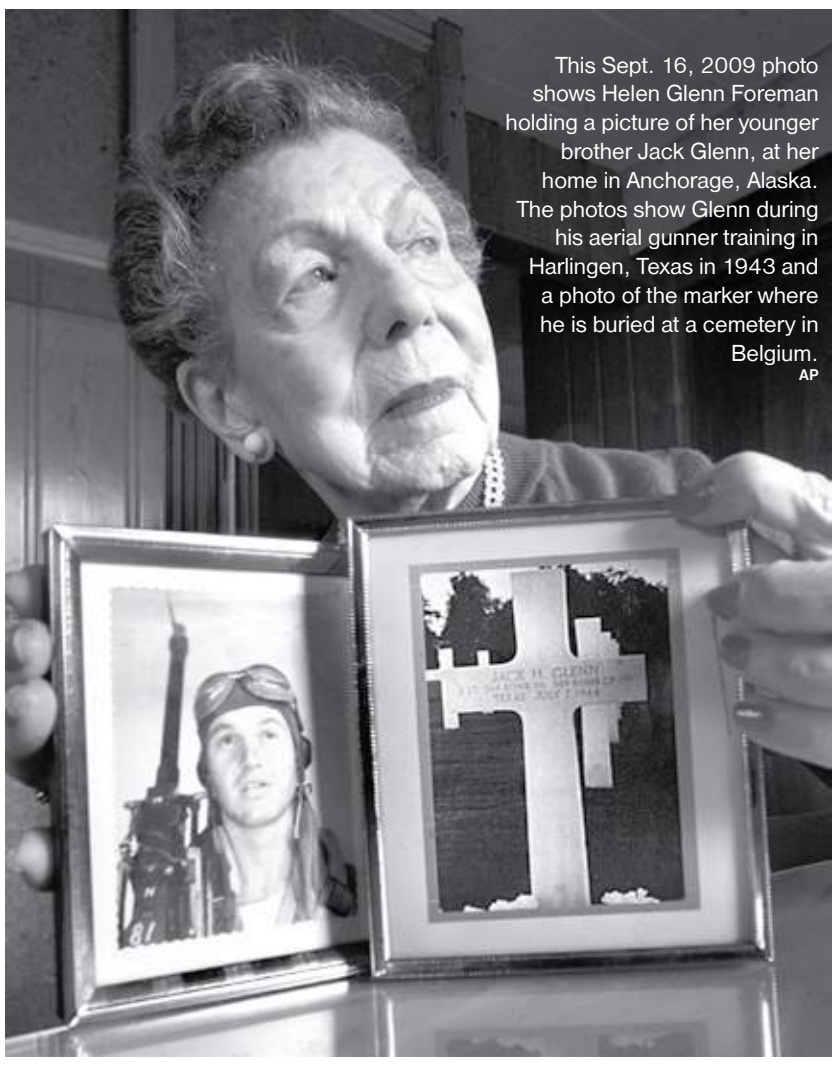
"We don't worry," she said simply. "As I said to somebody else, we're Christian and we trust in the Lord, and he was doing good work."

A few weeks later, she learned Jack had died.

"My family was told my brother's chute didn't open," she said.

In his short life, Jack had been a quiet, industrious boy, Foreman said with a sister's pride.

Their father operated a second-hand store that was the drop-off point for the Houston Post and other newspapers. Helen made morning deliveries, Jack made afternoon deliveries. When he was just 15, he began working on seismograph crews in the emerging oil industry, she said. After high school, where he was salutatorian, he worked at a pharmacy until he had enough money to enroll at Texas A&M. He finished one semester when he got his draft notice.



This Sept. 16, 2009 photo shows Helen Glenn Foreman holding a picture of her younger brother Jack Glenn, at her home in Anchorage, Alaska. The photos show Glenn during his aerial gunner training in Harlingen, Texas in 1943 and a photo of the marker where he is buried at a cemetery in Belgium. AP

Glenn's body stayed at a U.S. cemetery in Belgium. Foreman keeps a picture of Jack and his grave marker on her wall. Foremen remembers a letter he wrote after she married, and his wishes for her to have a happy life.

"He to me is what every parent of a son would want," Foreman said. "You can't say a man is sweet, but he was genuine."

The bracelet wasn't Kruse's last brush with the war.

In January 1945, he was drafted into the German army. Just four months later, his unit was overtaken by the Russian Army in Pritzwalk, northwest of Berlin. He was sent to a Russian prisoner of war camp.

In July 1949 he was released and returned to Klein Quenstedt, where he went back to work as a farmer.

Kruse said he never thought to return the bracelet or contact any living family Glenn might have, in part because for so long Klein Quenstedt was part of East Germany, cut off from the broader world by the Iron Curtain.

"And now, I'm so old that I don't have such grand ambitions anymore," he said.

Kruse does not speak English. The language barrier meant he and Harding, the American pilot, couldn't talk directly about a day in their youth that affected them both so deeply, but he felt that Harding appreciated the gesture.

"He was deeply moved," Kruse said.

The bracelet gives Glenn's friends another chance to honor him.

"Jack was loved and respected," said Bobbie Gaspard, a high school classmate in Bay City. "Everybody knew what his circumstances were, but he was industrious and he gave his life for this country. That's the kind of person he was."

Ceaseless deaths of the famous mark summer '09

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—We had been told to expect the deaths of the famous to come in threes, not in the dozens.

But all through the summer of 2009 came a ceaseless and somber drumbeat, as idols of all walks of life passed away. From Walter Cronkite to Sen. Ted Kennedy, the nonstop loss of luminaries continued almost as if a seasonal occurrence—as much a part of summer as hot dogs and humidity.

If a filmmaker were trying to capture the summer of 2009, Michael Jackson news would be playing in the background. Many thought coverage of Jackson's death was too much; a Pew Research Center poll released in July found that 64 percent of those surveyed thought the media blitz was overdone (though none could top MTV Japan, which designated an entire week of mourning for Jackson).

But news outlets went heavy on coverage for the many others who passed. Collectively, it made the constant commemorating hard to escape, especially for anyone active on social networks and the Web.

"It's relentless because of the impact of the Internet," said Adam Bernstein, the obituary editor of the Washington Post. "Twitter feeds go out. Every death seems to become more of a tempest rather than just the simple news of what it is."

Hayes Ferguson, the chief operating officer of Legacy.com, a site dedicated to providing a way for readers to express memories and condolences, believes media and technology can offer comfort to those grieving.

"People are able to reminisce and collect their thoughts after reviewing career highlights of prolific artists such as Michael Jackson," said Ferguson. "The number of Kennedy and Jackson tributes has been particularly large but there is a demand for this type of information."

Even with the media-inflated memorials, the parade of deaths was unusual. The phrase "summer of death" popped up, perhaps first used by New York magazine, which cheekily claimed the trademark. There's no particular reason for such an aberration; the death rate is typically higher during winter.

Early May saw the passing of the beloved Dom DeLuise, 75. But the portly entertainer was only a springtime harbinger of what was to follow.

On June 4, the "Kung Fu" actor David Carradine, 72, was found dead in a Bangkok hotel room. On June 23, Ed McMahon, the loyal "Tonight" show sidekick to Johnny Carson, died at the age of 86.

Just two days later, two icons of Generation X died. First was the news that Farrah Fawcett, the `70s sex symbol and "Charlie's Angels" star had died of cancer at 62. Late in the day, came the more unbelievable reports that Jackson had died.

Jackson's cultural importance alone would have been enough to keep his passing in the news cycle for weeks. But the complex nature of his estate and the murky details surrounding his death (eventually labeled a homicide by the medical examiner's office) insured Jackson remained on front pages and on cable news crawls. He was only buried on Sept. 3. Prosecutors are still investigating.

Before the end of June, the TV pitchman Billy Mays died. Like Jackson, he was just 50.

Early July saw the passing of Robert S. McNamara, 93. The Pentagon chief who directed the escalation of the Vietnam War - and was vilified by many for it.

Cronkite, who memorably commented in 1968 that Vietnam appeared an unwinnable stalemate, died on July 17. A voice of authority and the premier TV anchorman of the century, Cronkite's death was felt across journalism.

Don Hewitt, the TV news pioneer who created "60 Minutes" and was, like Cronkite, a CBS legend, died later in the summer on Aug. 19. That was just a day after the passing of political columnist Robert Novack.

Two days after Cronkite's death was Frank McCourt's. The teacher and "Angela's Ashes" author, died of cancer at the age of 78. Perhaps more than anyone, the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer blazed the trail of the popular modern memoir.

August saw the death of writer-director John Hughes, whose films such as "The Breakfast Club," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "Sixteen Candles" defined `80s youth. Hughes was 59.

On Aug. 11, Eunice Kennedy Shriver died. Famous to some for being the sister of President John F. Kennedy, Shriver's great accomplishment was founding the Special Olympics.

Two days later, Les Paul died at the age of 94. His contributions to music can't be underestimated; he developed multitrack recording and the solid-body electric guitar.

And just two weeks after Shriver's death, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy died at his home in Hyannis Port at the age of 77 after battling a brain tumor. The liberal lion of the Senate served for 46 years in Washington where he helped pass countless laws on many parts of civic life, from civil rights to health care.

The glamorous New York author Dominick Dunne, who specialized in stories about the rich and famous, died on Aug. 26 at the age of 83. Two days later followed DJ AM, the 36-year-old celebrity disc jockey.

"It feels like there's a lot of interest in celebrities - maybe more interest now than there used to be," said Claire Noland, obituary editor of The Los Angeles Times. "Any time you have someone that's even a moderate celebrity, they make more news now than maybe they would have before."

Last week, Patrick Swayze. The "Dirty Dancing" actor, 57, lost his long fight with pancreatic cancer. But even he wasn't the last.

With just days of summer officially remaining, perhaps—and hopefully—the last star to pass away in the summer of '09 was Mary Travers, who was one-third of the `60s folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary. She died Wednesday at the age of 72 after battling leukemia for several years.

And that summary still omits the passings of many others, including TV actress Gale Storm, Academy Award-winning actor Karl Malden, music manager Allen Klein, former NFL quarterback Steve McNair, British conductor Sir Edward Downes, the jazz composer George Russell, and Merce Cunningham, the avant-garde dancer and choreographer.

Nigerian officials: 'District 9' not welcome here

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—One of the summer's biggest blockbusters—a sci-fi morality tale about aliens and apartheid - is not welcome in Nigeria because of its portrayal of Nigerians as gangsters and cannibals, Nigeria's information minister said Saturday.

Information Minister Dora Akunyili has asked movie houses in the capital of Abuja to stop screening "District 9" because the South Africa-based sci-fi movie about aliens and discrimination makes Nigerians look bad.

"We have directed that they should stop public screening of the film," she said. "We are not happy about it because it portrays Nigeria in bad light."

Akunyili said she has asked Sony for an apology and wants them to edit out references to Nigeria and to the name of the main Nigerian gangster Obesandjo, whose name closely resembles that of former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

"We have written to the producer and distributor of the film, Sony Entertainment, expressing our displeasure and demanded an apology," she said. "We have asked that the areas where Nigeria and Obasanjo are mentioned should be edited from the film."

She and other government officials first saw the movie Wednesday during a private screening.

In one scene, Obesandjo tries to cut off and eat the arm of the film's protagonist, in an attempt to gain his supernatural powers. In others, Nigerian prostitutes are seen courting alien customers.

AP

This undated file movie still from Sony Pictures shows Sharlto Copley, center, in a scene from "District 9."

The film's portrayal of Nigerians has also drawn the ire of critics and bloggers, and has spawned a Facebook page called "Nigerians Offended by 'District 9,'" which had 57 members on Saturday.

Corlize Luttig, marketing manager for the South African cinema chain Ster-Kinekor, who represent Sony in South Africa, said they had no comment on the request by Akunyili. Ster-Kinekor does not distribute to Nigeria, she said.

Luttig said they were still waiting for comment from Sony's head office in Los Angeles.

"District 9" tells the story of an alien ship that mysteriously comes to hover over the South African city of Johannesburg. Its inhabitants are separated from the human population and segregated into a walled area known as District 9. But after nearly 30 years, government officials aim to relocate the extraterrestrials, with disastrous results.

The film is first feature from commercial and music-video director Neill Blomkamp, who co-wrote the script with Terri Tatchell. The film, which features a cast of mostly unknown South African actors, got its big-name backing from producer and "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson.

The film brought in some US$37 million (euro25.16 million) during its U.S. debut weekend in August. In its five-week run at U.S. theaters, it has brought in an estimated US$108,000,000 (euro73,444,406.66), according to studio estimates.

'Precious' snags audience choice award at TIFF

TORONTO (AP)—A raw film about an abused teen named Precious won the audience choice award at the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, stoking predictions that the harrowing, Oprah Winfrey-backed tale is Oscar-bound.

"Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire," snagged the coveted award at a luncheon that also named "Cairo Time," from Toronto director Ruba Nadda, the best Canadian feature.

The win for "Precious" follows a sensational debut earlier this year at Sundance, where the film claimed the grand jury and audience awards.

Piers Handling, co-director of the Toronto festival, said the movie's remarkable success is not unlike last year's surprise sensation, "Slumdog Millionaire".

"I think people want to see real stories about real people who are being tested in some kind of way and at the end of the day, hopefully, come out ahead of the game," said Handling. "As I think about it, it probably bears a lot of resemblance to last year's 'Slumdog Millionaire.'"

The film revolves around an obese teen who has been impregnated for the second time by her father, and stars Gabourey (Gabby) Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Lenny Kravitz and Mariah Carey. Tyler Perry and Winfrey serve as executive producers.

"Slumdog Millionaire," an indie film set in the slums of Mumbai, came from virtually nowhere to claim the audience choice award at the Toronto Film Fest and went on to sweep the big categories at the Oscars.

The People's Choice award includes a 15,000 Canadian dollar ($14,000) prize, which was accepted for "Precious" on behalf by Laurie May, co-president of production company Maple Pictures.

"So far, we're two for two," boasted May, referring to the two-time audience win.

AP

Laurie May, co-president of Maple Pictures, accepts the People's Choice Award on behalf of Lee Daniels for the film "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" during the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival Awards Reception in Toronto, Ontario on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.

Other prizes handed out Saturday included the award for best Canadian first feature film, which went to Quebec's Alexandre Franchi for "The Wild Hunt," set in the fantasy-reality of a large role-playing game. The award for best Canadian short film went to Pedro Pires for "Danse Macabre," which was based on a concept by Robert Lepage.

Nadda, who gets CA$30,000 ($28,000) as part of the best Canadian feature prize for "Cairo Time," said her film very nearly didn't get made.

She noted that roughly CA$1.5 million ($1.4 million) in funding fell through just two weeks before filming was to start in Egypt. She recalled getting the news from her producer saying the production, starring Patricia Clarkson and Tom McCamus, was dead.

"I went into shock and called him back and I was crying and I was like, `I'm begging you, I'm begging you, I'm begging you—please figure this out," recalled Nadda, who also wrote the screenplay.

In 48 hours, they were back on track with the help of Telefilm.

"This is why I feel like I've won the lottery, I really have," said Nadda, who has made 18 films, but makes her debut appearance at the fest with her tale about a married magazine editor who flirts with having an affair.

New award categories this year included a midnight madness prize, which went to Australian Sean Byrne's horror "The Loved Ones," and a people's choice award for documentary films, which went to "The Topp Twins" from Winnipeg's Leanne Pooley, about New Zealand lesbian country-and-western singers.

The awards wrapped up 10 days of movie madness that included more than 300 projects and megastars including George Clooney, Matt Damon, Julianne Moore, Penelope Cruz and Nicolas Cage.

Saturday's closing night film was to be "The Young Victoria" starring Emily Blunt and directed by Quebec's Jean-Marc Vallee, who helmed 2005's "C.R.A.Z.Y".

Atty: Estate deal possible in Michael Jackson case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katherine Jackson's attorney says a judge's ruling that she can challenge the administrators of her son's estate could result in a deal that will determine control of the singer's gargantuan assets.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff determined in a ruling released Friday that Michael Jackson's mother can argue against keeping the men currently administering her son's estate without being disinherited. Those arguments would have to be laid out in further motions that the judge will decide on.

Jackson's mother had sought a favorable ruling from Beckloff that she could contest the authority of attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain to guide the pop singer's fortune. The men were named the executors of the estate, which could be worth more than $500 million, in Michael Jackson's 2002 will.

Beckloff's ruling clears the way for further arguments and possibly a hearing on whether the men were best suited to control Jackson's considerable estate. The pair have already brokered deals for a movie, books, museum show and various memorabilia that are expected to generate tens of millions of dollars.

Katherine Jackson's legal team, however, has sought to challenge one or both of the men's authority. A key roadblock was whether a challenge would be deemed a contest to Michael Jackson's will. A provision of the singer's private trust—which gives his mother 40 percent of his assets—calls for anyone that challenges the will to be disinherited.

"She will never lose her inheritance," her attorney, L. Londell McMillan, wrote in a written statement after Beckloff's ruling. "We now hope to resolve the outstanding administration matter, without further costly litigation, in the best interests of the beneficiaries which are Mrs. Jackson and her grandchildren."

Most of Katherine Jackson's arguments for why she should be allowed to challenge Branca and McClain's authority have been sealed, but Beckloff noted in his ruling that they raised several issues, including whether Michael Jackson was under "undue influence" when he signed his 2002 will.

Katherine Jackson's attorneys may challenge Branca or McClain's fitness as administrators, or they may seek a member of Jackson's family or trusted adviser to become a co-administrator. Katherine Jackson's attorneys have noted that her son chose to have three men serve as executors of his estate, although one dropped out after the singer's will was signed.

Attorneys for Branca and McClain did not challenge Katherine Jackson's petition for a ruling. If her attorneys were to opt to formally challenge the authority of one or both of the men, then Beckloff would convene a hearing and hear testimony.

Katherine Jackson's attorneys have not objected to most of the deals Branca and McClain have negotiated to date, although they raised concerns about a deal involving concert promoter AEG Live for a memorabilia exhibit. Other deals include a $60 million agreement with Columbia Pictures to create a movie using footage of Jackson's final rehearsals for a series of London comeback concerts. The film will be released in theaters for a limited time beginning in late October, and the agreement allows special additions to be produced for DVD sales.

Beckloff ruled over Katherine Jackson's objections that the exhibit of her son's items—including some of his possessions from Neverland Ranch—could go forward.

Michael Jackson's music and merchandise has sold briskly since his death on June 25.

Beyonce to perform in Malaysia despite dress code

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2009 photo, Beyonce Knowles arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall, in New York.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Beyonce Knowles says she will perform in Malaysia in October, two years after canceling a show in this Muslim-majority country after protesters threatened to disrupt the concert because of her sexy image and clothing.

The R&B superstar's upcoming show is already drawing the ire of conservatives in this country, where female performers are required to cover up from the shoulders to knees with no cleavage showing.

Knowles said on her Web site that she will take the stage at a stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's biggest city, on Oct. 25. "Beyonce for the first time ever has decided to make Malaysia part of her 'I am.' World Tour," her Web site said.

Knowles canceled a planned concert two years ago following protest threats by Malaysia's opposition Islamic party. At the time her talent agency said the show was called off due to a scheduling conflict.

Instead she went to Indonesia, which has less stringent rules about how performers should dress and behave.

Sabki Yusof, youth vice head of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, said Sunday that they would send a protest note to the government over the concert. He said it was the government's "responsibility to protect the people of Malaysia" from what he described as immoral Western influences.

"We are not against entertainment as long as it is within the framework of our culture and our religion," Sabki said. "We are against Western sexy performances. We don't think our people need that."

He said besides the protest note, the party had no plans so far to disrupt the concert. Organizers for Beyonce's October show could not immediately be reached for comment.

Artists such as Avril Lavigne and Gwen Stefani have performed in Malaysia under similar protest threats by conservative Muslims, forcing the artists to don attire that revealed little skin.

In the most recent controversy, the government late last month at first barred, then reversed the order forbidding Muslims from attending a Black Eyed Peas concert because it was sponsored by a beer company. With the ban lifted Muslims can now watch the U.S. hip-hop stars at a theme park near Kuala Lumpur on Sept. 25.

In family and personal matters, Muslims, who make up two-thirds of Malaysia's 28 million people, are governed by Islamic law, which forbids the consumption of alcohol. The laws do not apply to non-Muslims.

Michael Moore screening 'Capitalism' in Mich. town

BELLAIRE, Mich. (AP)—Filmmaker Michael Moore gave residents of his adopted Michigan community an early showing of his new documentary on Saturday and urged them to help overthrow an economic system he said was beyond redemption.

More than 500 people crowded into a theater in Bellaire to see "Capitalism: A Love Story," a film based on the premise that greed and corruption have subverted U.S. democracy.

"I know what's in front of me these next weeks and months," Moore told one audience, anticipating withering criticism from conservative politicians and commentators, then added with a laugh: "That's why I wanted to watch this with you guys before I'm thrown to the lions."

Moore keeps a lakeside home near Bellaire, a rural village about 240 miles northwest of Detroit in Michigan's northwestern Lower Peninsula, and produced the film in a nearby town. The two showings along with three parties raised about $25,000 for the local Antrim County Democratic Party, its chairman said.

Michigan's unemployment rate of 15.2 percent is the nation's highest. It's even worse in parts of northern Michigan, where numerous auto parts factories and other manufacturers have folded in recent years.

The film blames the economic crisis on President Reagan-era deregulation and greedy business executives who Moore believes undermined free enterprise by pushing for policies that benefited the richest 1 percent while hurting the lower and middle classes.

Moore and his team produced "Capitalism" in a studio in Traverse City south of Bellaire.

"It was better for us to be here, in the heart of the trouble, instead of in the bubble of New York," said Moore, a Flint native.

There's little doubt the film will be controversial. Moore has long enraged conservatives with darkly satirical works such as "Bowling for Columbine," which criticized the nation's love affair with guns, and "Fahrenheit 9/11," an attack on the Bush administration's handling of the war in Iraq.

Moore has been a polarizing figure since his first documentary, "Roger & Me," accused General Motors Corp.'s executives of fleecing his hometown 20 years ago.

"Capitalism" also includes scenes from Flint, as Moore and his father—a former GM worker—visit the site of the spark plug factory where the elder Moore once worked.

"I don't have an 'interest' in Flint—I am Flint, just as anyone who was born and raised there is a part of it," Moore said in an interview between the showings. "Growing up there has had a profound effect on me."

Former Republican Gov. William Milliken, who watched with his wife, Helen, said the film was powerful.

"The message of the injustices that still persist and prevail in our society, that's a powerful message," he said.

Melanie Welch, formerly a teacher but now unemployed, said she was allowed to watch the film for free after slipping a note to Moore's wife, Kathleen Glynn.

"I wish everybody in the country could see it," said Welch, 63. "People need to get away from their computers, video games and TVs and get politically active so we can take this country back."

Ashley Barber, 18, of Muskegon, had never seen a Moore film and acknowledged fearing beforehand she'd be bored. Instead, she came away inspired.

"I had no idea the banks were doing these kinds of terrible things," she said. "Our generation is really going to have to change things."

The film will be released nationwide on Oct. 2.

Emmy countdown: Stars grab swag, jewelry; have tea

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The 61st Primetime Emmy Awards are Sunday and Hollywood is awash in swag and early celebrations. Here's a look at what's going on around Tinseltown:

TEA TOAST

Stars of "Mad Men," "Dexter," "The Office" and other Emmy-nominated shows celebrated their success at a tea party Saturday hosted by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

The garden party, held on a patio at the Intercontinental Hotel, featured finger sandwiches, petit fours and a silent auction of Hollywood memorabilia, such as signed scripts and set visits.

"Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner was bubbling with excitement about his show, which earned 16 Emmy nods.

"We just wrapped three days ago, so this is like the world's most expensive wrap party," he said.

Michael Gladis, who stars in the hit AMC show, was thrilled to share the Emmy festivities with his folks.

"After all their years of support ... it's nice to include them in the spoils," he said.

"Dexter" star Jennifer Carpenter was just happy she made it to the event.

"I had it on my calendar for next weekend," she said sheepishly. "So it's all been a race to get dresses when they're all lent out already. But it's fun."

SWAG SUITES

Celebrities celebrated Emmy weekend with one of the job's No. 1 perks: Free stuff.

Beau Bridges, Jackie Collins, William Shatner and "Lost" star Terry O'Quinn were among those who snapped up swag at the DPA Gifting Suite at the Peninsula Hotel.

Up for grabs? Luxury trips to Bora Bora, couture dresses from Sodaliscious, designer shades from Emilio Pucci (Collins grabbed two pairs), eco-friendly baby clothes and chemical-free cosmetics, plus mini-facials and manicures to beautify nominees and their entourages.

Speaking of "Entourage," HBO held a gift suite for its Emmy nominees at the Four Seasons. Tina Fey, Emmy host Neil Patrick Harris, Ricky Gervais, "Entourage" star Rex Lee and "Twilight" star Kellan Lutz were among those who collected goodies at the network's private "luxury lounge." They grabbed Guitar Hero game sets, designer handbags and sunglasses, fine cigars and at-home laser hair removal kits.

GOING PLATINUM

The casts of "The Office," "True Blood," "Desperate Housewives" and "Entourage" all went platinum - jewelry, that is.

The Platinum Guild International outfitted men and women with one-of-a-kind bling to wear during the weekend's Emmy events.

Seth Green, "Dancing With the Stars" pro Karina Smirnoff and host Samantha Harris were also among the celebs who picked out platinum pieces at the private suite Saturday. (The location is being kept secret because of the value of the baubles.)

Stars were free to select from vintage Cartier and Tiffany jewels and unique platinum pieces from around the world.

Stylist Michael O'Connor said to expect more bling on the men than in red carpets past.

AP

Dancers Karina Smirnoff, left, and Maksim Chmerkovskiy rehearse for the 61st annual Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009. The Primetime Emmy Awards will be held on Sunday in Los Angeles.

"They want to make sure they're standing out," he said.

IN CONTROL

The direction at this year's Emmys will be up close and personal.

The award show's control room is located inside a booth directly on stage at the Nokia Theatre. The flat-panel-filled enclave—more Starship Enterprise than Johnson Space Center—is positioned opposite the orchestra. It's from there that director Glen Weiss will steer the ceremony.

Outside the control room, five large screens will broadcast what's happening during the show while vertical screens mounted on tracks on the stage will be used as curtains. Winners shouldn't have trouble getting up to accept their trophies: The stairs spill out right into the front row.

MY EMMY MOMENT

■ Past winners recall the moments they won their first Emmy: Anne Heche won a Daytime Emmy in 1991 for her work on "Another World": "I was in Nebraska in a Motel 6 shooting a Hallmark movie with Jessica Lange, and so, I was actually sitting, eating a hamburger and fries, on a skanky bed, watching to see if I was going to win. And when they called my name, somebody came out and said, 'Well, Anne can't be here right now because she's in Nebraska.' Some weird, like, stiff person, 'She's not here . . .' And the phone rang and it was my agent and I said, 'Does this mean I'm an actress. Do I have to move to Hollywood or something?' And she said, 'Yeah, I think so.' And that was it. The Emmy made me move."

■ Cloris Leachman said seeing Bob Hope in the audience made her question her Emmy win in 1973 for her leading role in "A Brand New Life": "One night, I won an Emmy and I went out and (the stage) was like a tongue that went out instead of being straight. So, I came out and there was a mike, and there was Bob Hope sitting down below me. And I thought, 'My god! This is wrong. I could be sitting there and you should be here, because my father always listened to Bob Hope on the radio.' That was a remarkable night for me."

Miss Universe celebrates historic win

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The newly crowned Miss Universe returned to her native Venezuela on Saturday to celebrate her historic selection, saying the nation would go for its third consecutive win at next year's pageant.

Stefania Fernandez, 18, was welcomed at the airport with a red carpet and flowers.

"Nothing is impossible, Venezuela!" she said, stepping off the plane in a blue dress and sparkling crown.

Fernandez's win last month made Venezuela the first country to claim the title two years in a row, after Dayana Mendoza was crowned in 2008.

Fernandez, who is the sixth Miss Universe from this beauty-obsessed South American nation, will pass along her national crown to the new Miss Venezuela to be picked at a pageant Thursday.

She said she hopes her successor as Miss Venezuela will capture a third consecutive win for their country. "Next year, we're going for the triplet," she told reporters.

Fernandez will spend the next year traveling the world as an ambassador for the Miss Universe pageant, lending her celebrity to causes such as AIDS awareness. She will also study English and French. Asked what she would say to Colombian rocker Juanes regarding his controversial "Peace Without Borders" concert in Havana on Sunday, Fernandez said she believes that musicians, like beauty queens, "are always here to unite, not to create one more problem in the world."

Sunday's concert has drawn criticism in the Cuban-American exile community, where many complain Juanes is endorsing the island's communist system. Organizers insist the show has no ideological overtones.

AP

Miss Universe 2009 Venezuelan Stefania Fernandez smiles during a Press conference in Caracas, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.

Cuban dissident punk rocker Gorki Aguila visits US

MIAMI (AP)—Cuban dissident punk rocker Gorki Aguila is in the U.S. for 15 days to promote his new CD, but he's not sure if he'll be able to return home because of his sharp criticism of the Cuban government.

"I'm scared," said Aguila, who has repeatedly been arrested there.

"But I have to do this. This is the path I've chosen," Aguila told reporters in Miami on Friday as he began a tour to promote "The Faded Red Album"—a dig at the Cuban government's communist ideology.

The lead singer of Porno para Ricardo, or Porn for Ricardo, has a small but dedicated following on the island but is better known outside the country for his sexually explicit and irreverent criticism of Fidel Castro and his brother, Cuban President Raul Castro. One of the group's albums features the traditional communist hammer and sickle symbol, with a phallus replacing the hammer.

On Friday, Aguila dressed in jeans and a self-designed red T-shirt emblazoned with the phrase: "59: The year of the Error," a nod to the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

"I want to return," he said. "I have my projects in Cuba, and more importantly, I have my daughter," he said, adding that he would hold the Cuban government responsible if he is denied re-entry.

His U.S. visit is sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit group Global Cuba Solidarity Movement, an umbrella group for roughly 20 organizations in the U.S. and Eastern Europe. Some of the U.S. groups receive federal funding but not all.

Aguila's tour coincides with a massive international peace concert Colombian singer Juanes has organized in Cuba on Sunday. Juanes requested Aguila's group to play, but the group has been banned from public performances and from Cuba's airwaves.

"I do believe in Juanes' good intentions. I just think his intentions are very naive," Aguila said.

He said it was hard to believe the concert won't be political when it will be held under a massive likeness of Cuban revolutionary icon Che Guevara.

"It's time to call things by name. The bad in our country has a name: It's called Fidel Castro. It's called Raul Castro," he said.

Aguila was first arrested in Cuba in 2003 on drug charges he says were politically motivated. On Friday, he recalled how two months before his arrest, a government official came to his house and demanded he sign a paper rejecting his previous anti-government statements, as well as change the name of the band.

AP

Cuban punk rock musician Gorki Aguila poses in Miami on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009.

Leonard Cohen recovers from collapse

MADRID (AP)—Leonard Cohen is recovering after collapsing onstage while on tour in eastern Spain, his music company said Saturday.

The veteran poet and performer has been released from hospital after suffering from a stomach complaint, Doctor Music Concerts said in a statement.

Cohen was part-way through his song "Bird on the Wire" in Valencia when he fainted, causing the band to stop playing to rush to his aid as concertgoers watched. The concert was stopped.

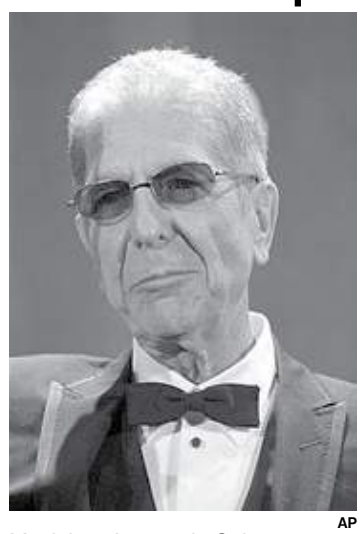
A video showing Cohen kneeling down several times during the performance and then keeling over sideways during a saxophone solo has been placed on YouTube on the Web by a fan.

The Canadian-born musician, who will be 75 years-old on Monday, was taken in an ambulance to the Nueve de Octubre hospital in Valencia but released early Saturday, Barcelona-based Doctor Music Concerts said.

Cohen was due to perform the last show of his Spanish tour at the Palau Sant Jordi concert hall in northeastern Barcelona on Monday. Trucks carrying Cohen's show had arrived at the hall on Saturday morning and were to set up as normal, a spokesman for the concert hall said.

Cohen had to come out of retirement five years ago when he discovered that most of his retirement fund had disappeared in a disputed case of mismanagement.

After leaving Spain Cohen was due to perform next at the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise, Florida on Oct. 17, his Web site said.



AP

Musician Leonard Cohen poses backstage at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony after he was inducted, in this March 10, 2008 file photo taken in New York.

Daughter is reluctant to be divorcing mom's confidante

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother and stepfather are divorcing after 30 years together. Mama has moved in with my husband, children and me. My stepfather is alone in their house and struggling to pay the bills.

The problem is Mama wants to confide in me and tell me all her troubles with "Donald." I told her I don't want to hear any of it because I don't want to end up hating him. Donald is my children's grandfather and the only father I have ever known. (There was no abuse involved in their marriage.)

Mother said I am her "best friend," and I should "be there" for her. Then she burst into tears and left. Was I wrong? I told her I support her in every way, but I don't think I should be the one she talks to about her failed marriage. I don't discuss their relationship with my stepdad either. Please tell me how to handle this.

CAN'T LISTEN IN DELRAY BEACH, FLA.

DEAR CAN'T LISTEN: Please forgive the understatement, but the process of divorce is an extremely emotional one. Your mother may be trying to justify why she walked out and force you to take sides.

Encourage her to express her hurt and disappointment to her spiritual adviser. He or she is more qualified to guide your mom because there is no emotional involvement.

P.S. You are not only a caring daughter, but also a very intelligent one. Hang in there.

DEAR ABBY: Our older daughter is almost 40. It has taken me decades to finally face the fact that she is self-centered, deceitful, manipulative, promiscuous, and enjoys the chaos and drama her bad choices cause. It has wrecked her life and is ruining her children's lives as well. Her lifestyle is radically different from ours and that of our younger daughter.

We have distanced ourselves. It's not that we don't love her—we just cannot accept the way she chooses to live her life. Her teenage children have begun to mirror her bad behavior. I feel guilty about it, but the drama is more than I can stand. Are we terrible parents?

DESPAIRING MOM IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DESPAIRING MOM: No, you're not "terrible." In a case like this, backing off is a rational, self-protective reaction to the reality that your daughter is an adult and responsible for her own choices.

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced woman with one child, and I'm in a relationship with a younger man. He has his own home, and I have mine. He stays at my house three nights a week and every other weekend, when my child is not with me. He eats and grooms himself in my home and swims in the community pool.

He never offers to pay for anything, like food, movie tickets, etc. If we go out, he expects me to pay my own way.

In today's world is there any responsibility on a man in a relationship to pay for anything other than himself? Are the days of men taking women out and paying for the date gone? Shouldn't he offer to bring groceries during the times he spends at my home? What should a lady expect from a man in a dating relationship?

GAL IN VIRGINIA

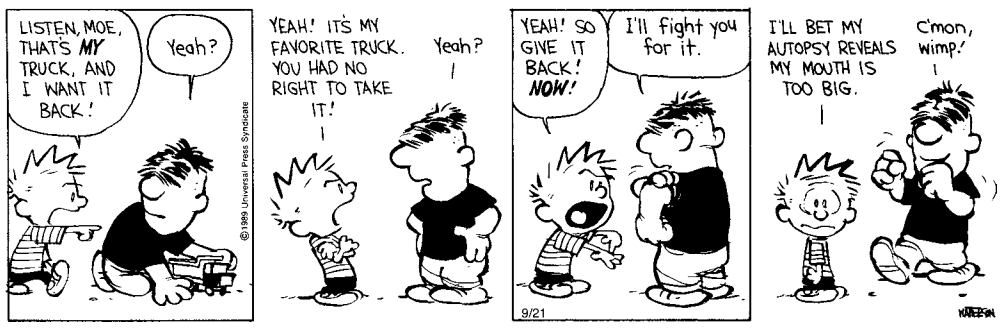
DEAR GAL: More than you're getting. When someone is in a romantic relationship, there is usually some "courting" behavior involved. (Even birds of prey will bring their prospective mate a dead rat occasionally.) When two people care about each other, there is usually some give and take. But in your case you appear to be doing all the giving.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LISTEN, MOE, THAT'S MY TRUCK, AND I WANT IT BACK!
Yeah?
YEAH! IT'S MY FAVORITE TRUCK. YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO TAKE IT!
Yeah?
YEAH! SO GIVE IT BACK! NOW!
I'll fight you for it.
I'LL BET MY AUTOPSY REVEALS MY MOUTH IS TOO BIG.
C'mon, wimp!
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9/21

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

REMEMBER, YOU'RE TAKING KATY TO HER CONCERT.
THIS IS GREAT! I LOVE THE ALLMAN BROTHERS.
WELL... UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S THE JONAS BROTHERS.
WHO?
YOUR DAUGHTER'S FAVORITE BAND.
MY DAUGHTER'S FAVORITE BAND IS THE ROLLING STONES.
THAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BAND. AND YOU MAKE US LISTEN TO THEM ALL THE TIME.
WELL, FORGIVE ME FOR TRYING TO SUPPORT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS.
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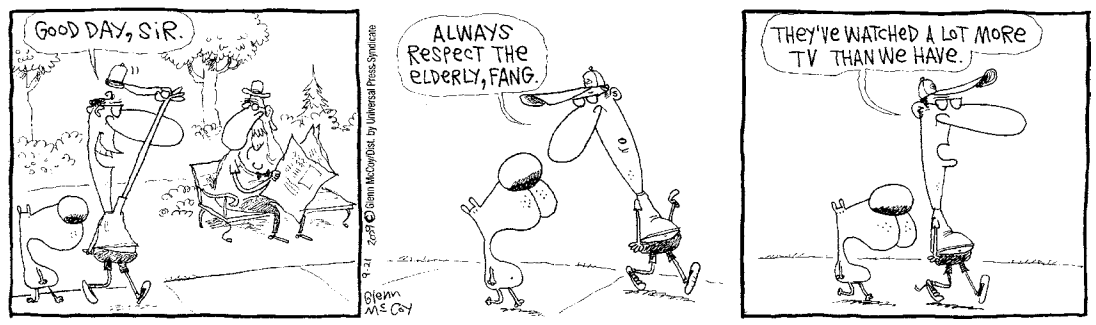
www.gocomics.com
9-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


GOOD DAY, SIR.
ALWAYS Respect the elderly, FANG.
THEY'VE WATCHED A LOT MORE TV THAN WE HAVE.
9-21
Glenn McCoy
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

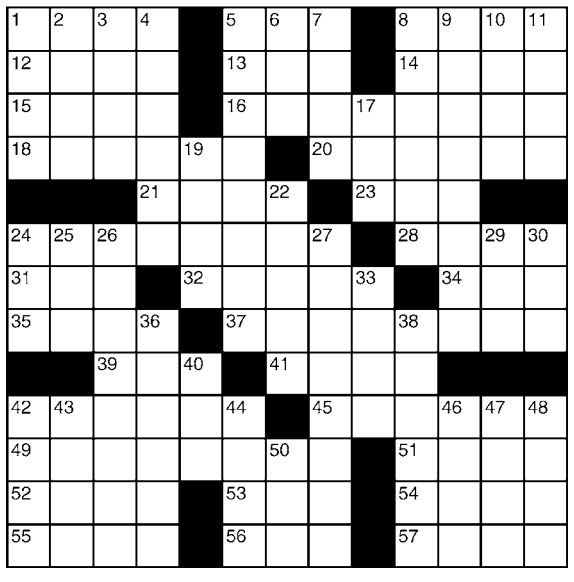
ACROSS
1 Fashion
5 Remote mail abbr.
8 Leading man?
12 Related
13 Listening device
14 Bargain
15 Easter entree
16 Blackmailer's specialty
18 Pupil's cover?
20 Rotational force
21 "My bad"
23 Thee
24 Emergency seat's purpose
28 Unuttered "alas"
31 Miss Piggy's pronoun
32 Top grade
34 Hatchery supply
35 Harmonization, briefly
37 Landlord's threat
39 Try the tea
41 Birthright barterer
42 Subordinate official
45 Greyhound alternative
49 November event
51 Yorkshire river
52 Track star Devers
53 Twitch
54 Cambodian money
55 "Rule, Britannia" composer
56 Hearty brew
57 Break suddenly

DOWN
1 Guy
2 Fine
3 Thinness comparison
4 As a whole
5 Organ component
6 Phone transmission
7 "Phooey!"
8 Houston team
9 Rum recipe
10 Matty of baseball
11 Biblical handwriting word
17 Coquettish
19 Tittle
22 Figure out
24 Type squares
25 Bliss
26 Genius personified
27 Pest
29 Sticky stuff
30 Coop occupant
33 Con game
36 It never ends
38 Private instructors
40 Butter serving
42 Mortal Kombat maker
43 Winged
44 Pocket bread
46 Destroy
47 On the briny
48 Seaweed that gives us iodine
50 Lubricate

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	E	L	M	A	■	S	T	R	A	W	S
S	T	R	A	I	N	■	A	R	A	B	I	A
E	A	S	I	L	Y	■	R	E	M	E	D	Y
E	Y	E	R	■	T	W	I	N	■	Y	E	S
■	■	■	D	O	H	A	■	T	E	A	■	■
S	E	W	■	F	I	N	S	■	A	N	T	E
P	A	R	T	A	N	D	P	A	R	C	E	L
Y	U	A	N	■	G	E	R	M	■	E	E	K
■	■	■	N	T	H	■	R	I	O	T	■	■
W	A	G	■	O	U	S	T	■	O	S	L	O
O	G	L	E	R	S	■	Z	O	N	K	E	D
O	R	E	L	S	E	■	E	N	G	I	N	E
L	A	D	D	E	R	■	R	E	S	T	S	■

Saturday's answer 9-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Mazzello, 26; Nicole Richie, 28; Liam Gallagher, 37; Faith Hill, 42

Happy Birthday: You may not be happy with the way things have gone in the past but only you can make the changes that will bring you peace of mind. Look at all the negatives and positives in your life so you can adjust your course of action. You can be successful if let go of the things that are holding you back. Your numbers are 1, 12, 16, 25, 28, 32, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You need to be precise in order to avoid misinterpretation. Put more energy into your partnerships and your home. Someone who lives a distance from you will see clearly a problem you face. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): The more intense you are and set in your ways, the more you will accomplish. An emotional situation will catch you off-guard. An affectionate gesture will help you bypass any conflict. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone will be waiting for you to make a mistake. Expect criticism but don't let it get you down. Instead, use it to improve whatever you are working on. It's how you react that will make the difference. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take hold of your personal life and settle any situation that has been plaguing you. The longer you let things linger, the harder it will be to turn them around. A relationship you cherish can be enhanced with care and attention. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail or anyone who is trying to take advantage of your generous nature. Explore different cultures, lifestyles and philosophies. Make changes based on your needs, not someone else's. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Offering your time or services will open up opportunities to expand what you do into areas you never thought to venture down in the past. An opportunity to form a partnership or a business should be considered. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): There are changes going on in back rooms that could leave you in an awkward position if you haven't made a point to stay in the loop. Look out for your own interests but don't feel compelled to make a fast decision. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be drawn to an unusual activity or event that will help you get a better picture of the way things are unfolding in your community, industry or organization. A connection with someone who has similar interests will lead to crucial changes to a project you've been trying to get off the ground. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll get caught in a trap if you make promises without thinking. Time will not allow you to fit in everything you have scheduled, so ask for help. You'll live up to your word and make some new friends. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There isn't anything you can't accomplish if you put your mind to it. Visiting friends, clients or anyone you find interesting, informative or productive will work to your benefit. There is money to be made and a relationship will be enhanced. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't pay for others or give or donate to something you know little about. Visit a friend or peer who can offer advice or knowledge that will help you further your interests or find your niche. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can raise your position personally or professionally through the people with whom you align yourself. Choose wisely and you can form a partnership, enabling you to explore areas of interest you have developed lately. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring, set in your ways, compassionate and willing to lend a helping hand. You have sound judgment and you give good advice.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2			7			5	1	
		1	3				8	7
6	3		1				4	
9		6			3			
4				5				6
			8			7		4
	9				4		2	5
7	2				8	3		
	6	5			9			1

Difficulty Level ★ 9/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	4	2	7	6	5	8	1
7	2	8	4	1	5	3	9	6
5	6	1	3	8	9	7	4	2
4	1	7	5	6	8	9	2	3
3	5	2	9	4	7	6	1	8
6	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	7
1	4	3	7	5	2	8	6	9
2	9	6	8	3	4	1	7	5
8	7	5	6	9	1	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, PART 2 **Solution: 10 letters**

S	B	A	O	C	E	A	N	I	A	O	M	A	S	P
A	A	E	G	A	I	S	Y	A	L	A	M	U	A	U
N	T	M	L	N	L	I	S	T	D	O	R	P	T	O
C	A	L	A	I	O	A	U	A	Z	P	U	N	E	R
E	H	U	A	H	Z	T	N	A	Y	A	W	Z	E	G
S	E	A	R	M	A	E	M	C	H	I	E	F	M	N
E	M	A	N	U	R	B	A	E	G	T	O	I	A	S
L	N	A	N	G	I	M	R	L	A	R	T	M	C	E
L	E	A	U	Q	E	O	N	N	M	A	I	C	I	V
E	V	S	U	R	P	O	Z	S	B	B	S	O	A	I
H	I	E	O	A	I	A	A	I	I	R	S	L	M	D
C	S	O	G	T	N	T	R	A	A	Ⓐ	U	O	A	L
Y	N	N	C	I	H	I	I	Q	U	Ⓔ	E	N	J	A
E	I	A	A	N	K	O	D	U	S	Ⓡ	S	Y	E	M
S	W	A	Z	I	L	A	N	D	S	Ⓐ	I	D	N	I

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Action, Area, Asia, Bahamas, Belize, Brunei, Cameroon, Change, Chief, Colony, Cyprus, Gambia, Grenada, Group, India, Issues, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lesotho, List, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Meet, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nevis, Oceania, Papua, Queen, Reforms, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Values, Vanuatu

Last Saturday s Answer: Megapixel

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Sex And The City

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hope, strength and joy!
"My wish is to become a firefighter!"
Help Ada! Saipan Tribune

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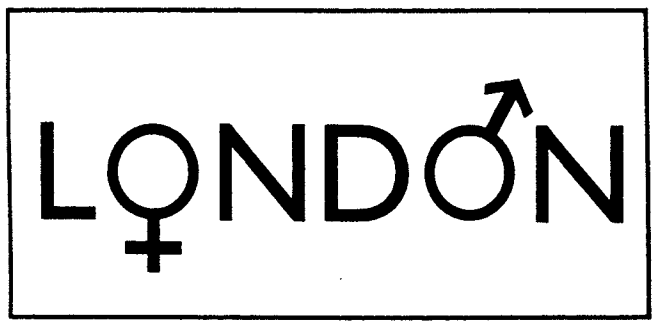
WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No.	Position	Compensation (per annum)	Opening/Closing Date
09-041	Trades Technician (Mechanic-Operator), Rota 1 Position	$17,282.00 - $23,115.00	09/10/09 - 09/24/09
09-042	Trades Technician (Electrician-Operator), Rota 1 Position	$17,282.00 - $23,115.00	09/10/09 - 09/24/09

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please stop by the Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: September 18, 2009 **Closing date: October 23, 2009**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Executive Director
1 (one) Staff Engineer

Employment Application must be accompanied with a first copy of all required diploma/certificates, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2009.***

Minimum Qualifications:

Executive Director: Possess a four (4) year degree from an accredited U.S. University with no less than ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in either of the following field: management, engineering, financial, aviation and/or maritime industry. Must have managerial and leadership experience acceptable to the Board of Directors.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Staff Engineering: Possess a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -v- CONCEPCION M. MANGLONA, LORENZA M. MANGLONA, HERMAN M. MANGLONA, and LUIS A. SASAMOTO, Defendants.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0325 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, LUIS A. SASAMOTO:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your cousel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judment by default may be taken against you for the relief of demanded in the complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 8th day of September, 2009:

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

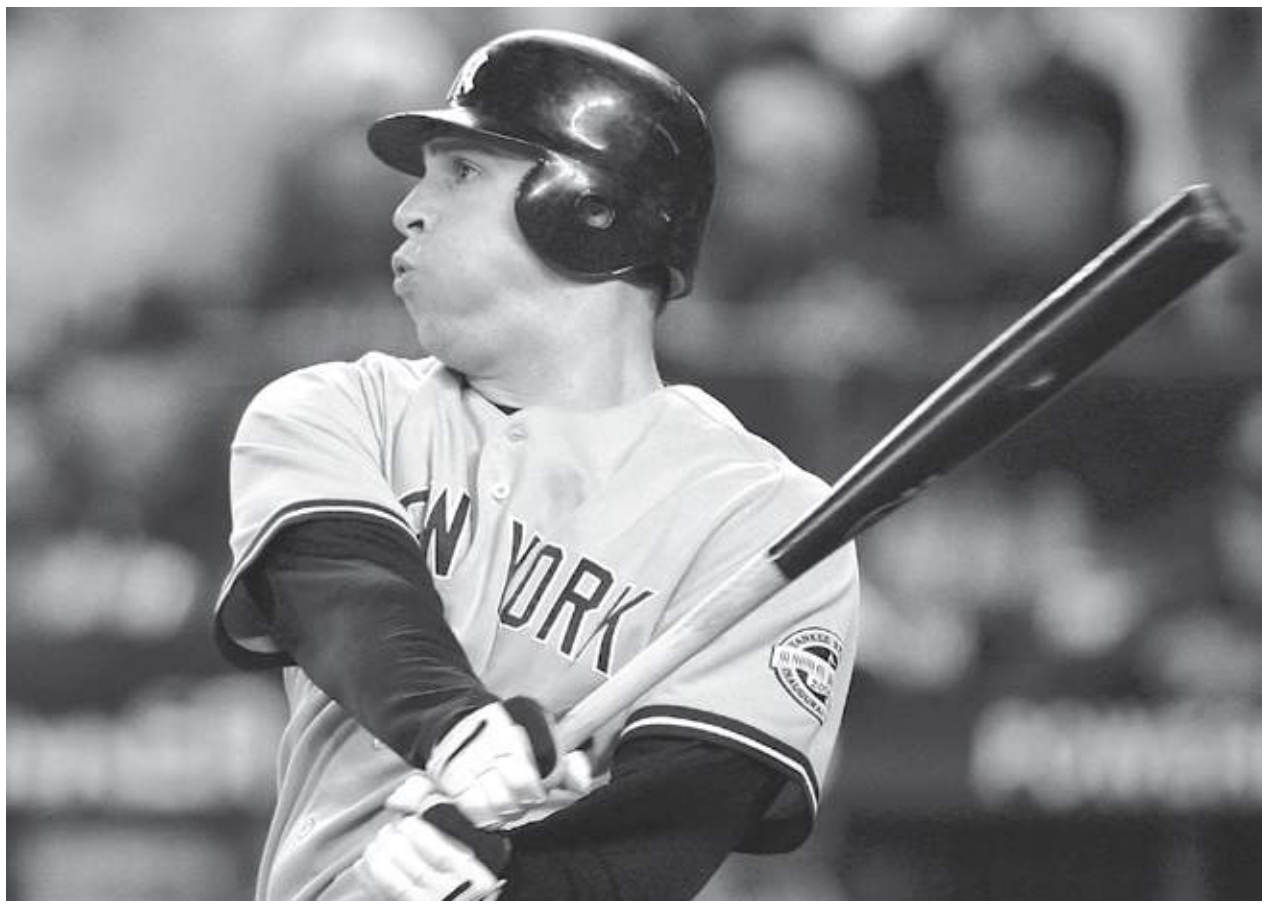
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Yankees crush Mariners to keep AL East lead

SEATTLE (AP)—The New York Yankees resumed their cruise to the American League East title with a 10-1 rout of the Seattle Mariners on Saturday.

Pitcher C.C. Sabathia ignored a powerful hit that came back off his chest, claiming his 18th victory by giving up only one run in seven innings. He bolstered his candidacy for the AL's Cy Young Award and tied St. Louis' Adam Wainwright on 18 wins for the most in the AL.

Mark Teixeira homered twice and drove in a season-high five runs for the Yankees, who remained six games ahead of second-place Boston for the division lead, with 13 games left in the regular season.



AP

New York Yankees' Mark Teixeira hits a home run in the ninth inning against the Seattle Mariners Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, in a MLB baseball game at Safeco Field in Seattle.

Rangers 3, Angels 2

In Arlington, Texas, Hank Blalock homered to help lift Texas' slumping offense as the Rangers edged Los Angeles to keep their slim playoff hopes alive.

Pitcher Scott Feldman picked up his 17th victory as Texas snapped a five-game losing streak and moved within 6-1/2 games of the division-leading Angels in the AL West.

Texas had been shutout in four of its previous five games, the first time in club history that happened. The Rangers had scored just once in 48 innings before bringing home a run in the third.

Twins 6, Tigers 2

In Minneapolis, Minnesota moved with two games of Detroit in the AL Central title race.

Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander was having a steller performance until the eighth inning when Orlando Cabrera hit a fly ball down the left-field line. Fielder Don Kelly misjudged it looking toward the Metrodome's deceiving roof, and it resulted in a run-scoring double, starting a burst that broke open the game.

The Twins won their sixth straight and moved four games above the .500 mark, both season highs, in front of their largest home crowd, 43,338, since opening day.

Red Sox 11, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Jon Lester pitched into the seventh inning to win his sixth straight decision, guiding Boston past Baltimore.

Josh Reddick, J.D. Drew and Brian Anderson homered for the Red Sox, who dropped their magic number to clinch the AL wild card below double figures. Any number of Boston victories or Texas defeats totaling nine will put the Red Sox in the playoffs.

Lester wasn't at his best, but good enough to run his career record against Baltimore to 10-0, including 4-0 this season.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Garza struck out 10 while stopping a personal nine-game winless streak, lifting Tampa Bay over Toronto.

Garza pitched 7 1-3 scoreless innings in winning for the first time since July. The right-hander is 3-5—with all three victories coming against Toronto—over his past 15 starts.

White Sox 13, Royals 3

In Chicago, the hosts scored six times in the eighth inning to crunch Kansas City.

Jake Peavy allowed three hits over five innings in his first start in over three months, coming back from a strained ankle tendon.

The White Sox got a grand slam from Carlos Quentin.

Athletics 8, Indians 4

In Oakland, California, Oakland extended its winning streak to six games, downing Cleveland.

Oakland's Mark Ellis homered to break the franchise record for second basemen. His shot in the second inning gave him 77 career homers when playing second base, taking him past Dick Green on the club's list.

Cleveland has lost 10 straight on the road.

Dodgers 12, Giants 1

In Los Angeles, Ronnie Belliard hit a grand slam and Matt Kemp and James Loney added back-to-back drives off former teammate Brad Penny as the Los Angeles Dodgers routed the San Francisco Giants.

Jon Garland (11-11) gave up an unearned run and seven hits in eight innings, tying his longest outing of the season. He's unbeaten in his last six starts, four of those with the Dodgers after he was acquired from Arizona on Aug. 31.

Penny (10-9) gave up seven runs and five hits in 2 2-3 innings—equaling his shortest outing of the season.

Cardinals 2, Cubs 1

In St. Louis, Brendan Ryan hit an outfielder-assisted homer and singled in the winning run in the ninth inning, helping St. Louis close in on the Central division title.

The Cardinals beat Chicago in the ninth inning for the second straight game, this time prevailing after Ryan Franklin's third blown save in his last five appearances. Franklin (4-3) allowed two hits and a tying sacrifice fly to Jeff Baker in the ninth.

St. Louis had three singles off Carlos Marmol (2-4) in the bottom half and Ryan's liner to left with runners on first and third was his third hit of the game.

Mets 3, Nationals 2

In New York, Tim Redding pitched splendidly into the eighth inning as New York ended its six-game losing streak.

New York scored twice in the seventh to snap a 1-all tie, taking advantage of a defensive mistake by rookie Ian Desmond, who was playing his first professional game in the outfield. Desmond, normally a middle infielder, initially broke in on David Wright's liner to right, leaving him helpless when the ball sailed over his head for a leadoff double. Jeff Francoeur followed with his second double.

Padres 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Henry Blanco hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning to lead San Diego to the victory.

Two runs were scored without the benefit of a hit. The winner came when Chase Headley reached on an error by second baseman Brian Bixler and Phil Dumatrait (0-2) walked the next two batters before Blanco's fly to deep center off Denny Bautista.

Luke Gregerson (2-3) got three outs to extend his scoreless streak to 17 innings.

Rockies 10, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Troy Tulowitzki homered for a career-best fourth game in a row, Jason Giambi hit his first home run since coming to Colorado and the Rockies beat the Diamondbacks to open a little breathing space in the wild-card race.

Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez hit solo home runs in the first inning and Giambi had a three-run shot as a pinch hitter in a five-run ninth as the Rockies won for just the second time in seven games.

Braves 6, Phillies 4

In Atlanta, Javier Vazquez outpitched an ailing Pedro Martinez, and Atlanta survived a shaky ninth inning to snap Philadelphia's six-game winning streak.

The Phillies scored four times in the ninth before Rafael Soriano got Ben Francisco to fly out to right with runners on first and second to end the game. Ryan Howard hit a two-run drive for his 41st homer and pinch-hitter Greg Dobbs and Jimmy Rollins each had RBI singles.

Marlins 3, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, pinch-hitter Ross Gload connected for a two-run homer in the eighth inning, Ricky Nolasco pitched seven sharp innings and Florida rallied to beat Cincinnati for the second straight day, a day after ending a three-year skid in Cincinnati.

Jorge Cantu also homered for the Marlins.

Nolasco (12-9) became the first Florida pitcher to last at least seven innings since Aug. 18, allowing two runs and four hits.

Brewers 7, Astros 2

In Milwaukee, Jeff Suppan pitched seven strong innings and Prince Fielder set the Milwaukee record for RBIs in a season.

It was the fourth straight win for Milwaukee, which hadn't won that many in a row since May 16-19. The Brewers broke open a close game with five runs in the seventh inning.

Fielder's sacrifice fly in the eighth gave him 127 RBIs, passing current Houston manager Cecil Cooper's total with Milwaukee in 1983.

Spain to face Czech Republic in Davis Cup final

LONDON (AP)—Spain will defend its Davis Cup title in a home final against the Czech Republic after both teams won their semifinals 3-0 on Saturday with a day to spare.

Feliciano Lopez and Tommy Robredo upset Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram 7-6 (6), 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 as Spain beat Israel at Torre Pacheco for the chance to win its fourth title this decade, and become the first team to win successive Davis Cups since Sweden in 1997-98.

"To be in the finals two years running is incredible," Robredo said.

The Czechs surprisingly paired Radek Stepanek and Tomas Berdych a day after they took nearly 10 hours to win the opening singles against host Croatia. Together, they defeated Marin Cilic, who lost to Berdych in singles, and Lovro Zovko 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 in a comparatively quick 2 hours, 16 minutes at Porec.

The victory advanced the Czechs to their first final since their only Davis Cup triumph in 1980, when Ivan Lendl led what was Czechoslovakia.

"We are very happy to be in the finals, but we won't be satisfied until we lift the cup," Stepanek said. "We will be outsiders in Spain, but we have been in that situation many times in the past and we hope to use it to our advantage."

Spain will be heavily favored for the final from Dec. 4-6.

With the win over first-time semifinalist Israel, the Spanish have won 17 successive ties at home and 19 straight on clay since Gustavo Kuerten's Brazil beat them in 1999 at Lerida.

Spain lead the Czechs 3-2 in head-to-heads, including the last tie in 2004 which featured many of the present players; Lopez, Robredo, Rafael Nadal for Spain, and Stepanek and Berdych for the Czech Republic.

Nadal, injured during the U.S. Open, watched Lopez and Robredo struggle against the more experienced Ram and Erlich, who have won 13 doubles titles, including the 2008 Australian Open.

The Israelis rallied from 6-3 down in the second-set tiebreaker to win it 9-7 to level the set score. They came back again from 4-0 down in the third set but Lopez and Robredo hung on to win it 6-4.

In the fourth, Erlich had to be treated for a sore shoulder and lost service in the third game in what proved to be the decisive break of an intense match which lasted 3:46.

"It's tough to beat Spain on clay, even if we were healthy," Ram said.

Meanwhile, Stepanek and Berdych broke Cilic in the opening game of their doubles and rolled on at Zatika Arena, interrupted only by a 15-minute break at the start of the third set when some lights went out.

Stepanek converted their fourth match point with a smash, triggering wild celebrations by the thousands of Czech fans, who witnessed only Croatia's second defeat in a home tie.

"It's unbelievable," Stepanek said. "We didn't think we would cruise to a 3-0 lead against the powerful Croats."

In playoffs to make next year's World Group, only Serbia advanced on Saturday after beating Uzbekistan 3-0 in Belgrade.

Roger Federer didn't play doubles so Italy cut Switzerland's lead to 2-1 in Genoa; Jo-Wilfriend Tsonga won his second point for France to lead the Netherlands 2-1 in Maastricht; Mahesh Bhupathi suffered a groin injury and had to retire in the third set of the doubles as India led South Africa 2-1 in Johannesburg; Belgium led visiting Ukraine 2-1 in Charleroi; Sweden led Romania 2-1 in Helsingborg; Ecuador's Lapentti brothers won a five-setter to lead host Brazil 2-1; and Chile led Austria 2-0 in Rancagua.

Eagles injured QB McNabb doubtful vs. Saints

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kevin Kolb took all the snaps with the first team in practice. He answered all the questions about his preparedness to start for the Eagles.

Kolb was publicly supported by his teammates, and kept his cool even as Jeff Garcia was signed as their backup QB.

He's done it all this week but start his first NFL game.

Kolb appears set to get that welcomed chance against New Orleans on Sunday. Donovan McNabb is doubtful because of a fractured rib and sat out practice for the third straight day Friday.

The Eagles haven't completely ruled out McNabb, leaving open the slim chance that the quarterback who once threw four touchdown passes on a broken ankle can gut out a painful rib injury against the Saints.

McNabb bellowed "I feel great" and laughed as he left the Eagles locker room. Coach Andy Reid said there was a chance McNabb would participate in Saturday's walkthrough.

"He felt a little bit better today and we'll just keep rehabbing him and see how it goes the next couple of days," Reid said.

Kolb, who has never thrown a TD pass in eight career games, is ready to start.

"In my mind, I'm the starter," he said. "That's the way I have to think of it."

AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterbacks Jeff Garcia (9) and Donovan McNabb look on during practice at the team's NFL football training facility in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009.

Kolb would get the start ahead of Garcia, who signed Tuesday as an emergency backup. Garcia would be the No. 3 emergency QB if McNabb could somehow play. Michael Vick, suspended for the first two regular-season games as the final league penalty for his role in running a dogfighting ring, is not eligible until Week 3 against Kansas City.

Garcia and Vick shared snaps running the scout team Friday.

Reid has faith in Kolb, the Eagles' second-round draft pick in 2007.

"He takes charge in there and he's done a nice job with managing the huddle and the plays," Reid said.

It has been a strange sight for sure at Eagles practice this week, where McNabb, Garcia and Vick mingle in the background while Kolb runs the offense. Three QBs with a combined 12 Pro Bowls and six NFC title games are reduced to cheerleaders for Kolb and his 167 career yards passing and four interceptions.

Kolb said he was more comfortable at each practice and knows he's ready to handle the Saints and the rest of the NFL.

"I had about 12 people come up to me and say, 'God, you look as ready as you'll ever be,'" Kolb said. "Now it's about going out there and making sure it happens."

He has to make it happen because the fans will demand a change if he gets off to a slow start. Garcia was an instant fan favorite during his first stint here when he led the Eagles to the NFC East title subbing for an injured McNabb. Kolb has already been told he's earned the chance to start and finish Sunday's game.

There are no guarantees he'll get a second start no matter the result. With Garcia and Vick lurking if McNabb can't go against the Chiefs, the pressure is amped on Kolb to play well and win.

If Kolb throws three interceptions and the Eagles are down 17 entering the fourth quarter, why not try Garcia? He wished Kolb well, but said he's prepared to play if pressed into action.

"I'd be fired up," Garcia said. "If for some reason that opportunity presented itself, I'll be ready. I'll be ready to go."

Then again, Kolb could shine, McNabb could rush back and struggle, and those fickle fans could be chanting "We want Kolb!" on Oct. 11.

McNabb cracked a single rib when he was crunched by several defenders on his 3-yard touchdown run in the third quarter of last week's win at Carolina. He didn't immediately get up after the touchdown, and was attended to by Eagles trainers before eventually leaving the field on his own.

Kolb was 7 for 11 for 23 yards and sacked twice once he took over for McNabb.

Reid said McNabb's rib has become "sticky"—or, more stable—which was encouraging.

"When they start feeling better, that's normally a sign that's happened," he said.

McNabb laughed at his locker when asked about his sticky ribs.

"I don't know what that means," he said. "I never heard that in all my life."

He's not the only Eagle hurting. Safety Quintin Demps (hamstring), guard Todd Herremans (foot) and linebacker Joe Mays (shoulder) are all out Sunday.

They know their fate. Kolb wants a concrete answer on his role.

"Yeah, as soon as possible just because you want to know," Kolb said. "It doesn't matter because I'm preparing right now like I'm the starter. My mindset is that I'm starting and that's the way I have to think of it."

NFL BRIEFS

Rice, Smith headline Hall of Fame nominees

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—Jerry Rice and Emmitt Smith headline the preliminary list of modern-era nominees for induction next year in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The list released Saturday includes 131 players, coaches and contributors. Hall of Fame selectors will chose 25 semifinalists by Nov. 27, and 15 finalists by Jan. 7. Voting will take place Feb. 6, the day before the Super Bowl. Other modern-era nominees include Tim Brown, Herschel Walker, Cris Carter, Andre Reed and Sterling Sharp. Former commissioner Paul Tagliabue is also on the list. They join two previously announced senior nominees, former Detroit Lions cornerback Dick LeBeau and former Denver Broncos running back Floyd Little.

LT to miss Chargers' home opener against Ravens

SAN DIEGO (AP)—LaDainian Tomlinson has been ruled out of the San Diego Chargers' home opener against the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday due to a sprained ankle, just the second time the star running back will miss a start due to injury in his brilliant nine-year career. The former NFL MVP, who was hurt in Monday night's 24-20 win at Oakland, hadn't missed a game due to injury until January, when a groin injury kept him out of a playoff loss to the eventual Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers. Tomlinson's carries will go to Darren Sproles and Michael Bennett, a late-season addition last year who made the roster out of training camp. Also out are center Nick Hardwick (ankle) and defensive end Travis Johnson (groin). Right guard Louis Vasquez (knee) could also be sidelined, along with linebacker Antwan Applewhite (hamstring) and defensive tackle Jamal Williams (elbow). All three are listed as questionable for Sunday.

3 injured Patriots won't play Sunday

BOSTON (AP)—The New England Patriots have downgraded three players for Sunday's game against the New York Jets. Offensive lineman Dan Connolly, who had a back injury, won't be playing in the game at Meadowlands. Wideout Matt Slater, who injured his elbow, and cornerback Terrence Wheatley, who has a knee injury, also are out.

Blackout lifted for Bolts' home opener vs. Ravens

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Chargers have sold enough tickets to lift the local television blackout of their home opener on Sunday against the Baltimore Ravens. The Chargers were in danger of their first regular-season blackout since 2004. Both of their exhibition openers were blacked out, and the team has warned fans that there could be regular-season blackouts. The team said 4,000 tickets remain for their game against Miami a week from Sunday. The team received a 24-hour extension from the NFL because it still had 1,100 tickets unsold on Thursday.

NBA to move ahead with replacement refs

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA will hold training camp next week with replacement officials, saying the referees union has rejected its final contract offer.

The National Basketball Referees Association has been bracing for a lockout since talks first broke down last week, and lead negotiator Lamell McMorris called it "imminent and unavoidable" after no deal was reached Thursday.

A statement from the NBA on Friday made it clear the lockout was under way.

"It is extremely disappointing that the NBRA has ignored the economic realities, rejected our offer, and left us with no choice but to begin using replacement referees," executive vice president and general counsel Rick Buchanan said.

McMorris said the referees didn't view Thursday's negotiations as a final offer, yet wasn't surprised by the NBA's decision.

"I predicted that a lockout was forthcoming and yet it does not mean that both sides cannot continue to talk and work through some of these issues," McMorris said.

Training camp was scheduled to begin Sunday, but will now be pushed back into sometime next week to give the NBA time to line up the replacements and get them to New Jersey. The league did not say how many referees would be at camp. There are 57 active NBA officials.

The league began contacting replacements last Wednesday, the day after the last face-to-face meeting between the sides in New York, which commissioner David Stern abruptly ended because he said the officials reneged on a previously agreed to proposal.

McMorris said he "absolutely disputes" that, insisting replacement officials—including some who had been fired by the league—were contacted well before the last session.

The contract between the NBA and its officials expired Sept. 1, and the sides had been trying to reach a new two-year deal. They largely agreed on salaries, which would have held steady this year and given the refs a slight increase in the second year, but the union balked at the league's attempt to change retirement benefits.

The league also sought to lower costs through reductions in areas such as the travel budget and per diems, and the union also fought a league plan to develop younger officials. But the biggest difference was in the referees' pension and severance plans.

The NBA's statement said the previous deal gave the referees retirement bonuses of up to $575,000, on top of pension benefits that could exceed $2 million. It said that came on top of salaries of nearly $150,000 per year for entry level referees and more than $550,000 annually for the most senior referees.

McMorris was upset the NBA included salary information in its release, calling it a "distortion of the referees current compensation", since he contends the NBA gave raises and bonuses to the three men in the league office who oversee the referee operations department.

"I just thought that was an unfortunate low blow that they're attempting to do in order to create media spin and I guess to try to get fans to not sympathize with our plight," McMorris said.

Stern has said the league is trying to bring the referees' budget in line with other departments.

"The proposals we have made to the NBRA are extraordinarily fair and reasonable, given the current economic circumstances," Buchanan said. "Since late 2008, the league and our teams have made far deeper cuts in non-referee headcount and expenses than we are asking for here."

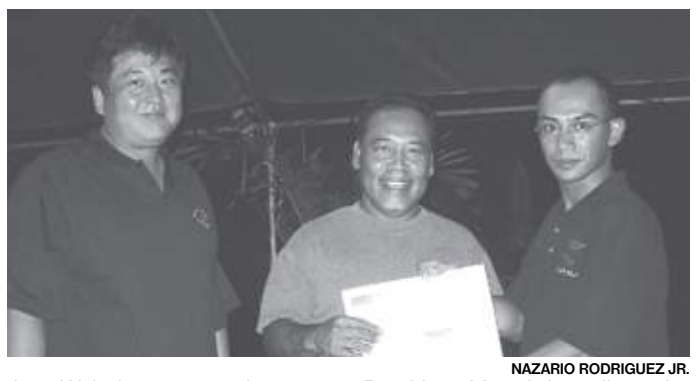
The first preseason game is scheduled for Oct. 1 at Utah. The NBA hasn't used replacement referees since early in the 1995-96 season.

"We're the ones who have given back money, put money back on the table," McMorris said. "I just don't know what else we can do."

Registration starts for Hyatt Golf Classic

For the past 13 years, Hyatt Regency Saipan has been successfully holding a golf tournament that is primarily aimed to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

In anticipation for a wider participation this year, the organizing committee has again launched an early registration campaign for the Nov. 14 event as it keeps its commitment to grant the wish of a child who has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Jess Wabol, center, and teammate Bae Yong Man, left, smile to the camera as they receive their first prize certificates from Club Elan manager Robin Eugenio during the dinner banquet for the 2008 Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic last year.

Over $12,000 have been raised during last year's tournament

The 14th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

The event holds the distinction of being the most enjoyable and fun event on island, a four-person Scramble format with a double Peoria handicap system that enables every player a chance to take home the grand prize.

Participants may choose to enter individually where they will be randomly placed in a team, or enter their own four-person team.

This format uses a best ball style of play, where after each shot, the team will decide which of their four balls they wish to play.

Saipan's ace par-buster Jess Wabol, who left the other day to represent the CNMI in the Cook Islands Mini Games, finally won the championship in a tournament where the lowest gross score does not really matter.

Wabol led Team 2A to the championship along with Bae Yong Man and junior golfer Louis Byun, who had to carry the load because Tars Olopai, their fourth player, did not show up. Aside from this, the trio also played with a zero handicap with a net 62. They started the day with a zero handicap.

Teams may also purchase one kick and one throw for a donation of $20 which they may use during the round. There would also be other fun activities at the fairways such as longest drives, blindfolded drives, and more.

Hyatt Regency Saipan encourages all types of golfers to enter as the tournament is all about fun and everyone has a chance to win.

Application forms can be obtained from Club Elan, the Hyatt frontdesk, and at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Third round of KQOD qualifier next weekend

Advance X-Terminators will try to keep its lofty billing when the third round of the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament is played this coming weekend, Sept. 26-27, at the Capital Hill Ball Field.

The X-Terminators topped the first round last June 13-14, followed by Kulan Zamu, Pac Chain, and Team Banzai.

They also ruled the second round on Aug. 1-2 when the tournament increased to seven teams.

Natibu only came in second but it was enough for them to gain the second ticket for the Saipan leg of the Tournament of Champions.

The other teams that took part in the second round were Kulan Zamu, Saipal, Tac Chain, Sokau 670, and Falcons.

Like in the previous qualifying rounds, the third round champion will get a trophy and five cases of beer, the second finisher will take home a trophy and three cases of beer, and the third placer gets a trophy and two cases of beer.

Coordinator Joey Dela Cruz is reminding everyone that only the teams that participated in the first and second rounds are eligible to join the third round.

After the third round, all the second and third place teams that played at least two rounds will take part in a consolation round that will be played from Oct. 3 to 4.

The Tournament of Champions-Saipan Leg will be held on Oct. 17-18 with the winner representing the CNMI in the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament of Champions to be hosted by Saipan from Nov. 12 to 15.

Champion teams from Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, and Saipan will compete for the title for this regional event that started four years ago. Pohnpei will be competing for the first time. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

PACIFIC

From Page 28

sociation president Michael A. White traveled with Wabol and Manglona to Cook Islands and is serving as the CNMI delegation's chef de mission.

A week before leaving Saipan, White lamented the government's lack of support to the islands' athletes and even brought up the controversial issue of funding raised during the 2006 Micronesian Games held on Saipan.

"Once again, we got no support from the government, which has not provided any assistance to NMASA since the 2003 Pacific Games. I am personally very disappointed that the government does not support our athletes when they go abroad to compete for the glory of the CNMI. It's too bad that all of the funds which we realized from the 2006 Micronesian Games were never accounted for, and that the government never took any action to determine what happened to these funds," he said.

The CNMI was supposed to send an eight-man delegation to the Mini Games. However, three of the four golfers—Ralph Yumul, Carl Hocog, and Ben Duenas—pulled out because of lack of funds and va'a canoe's Eddie Johnson had to beg off after his employer didn't approve his leave request.

White added that the islands' athletics team was supposed to send a contingent but their athletes were busy with school work.

Colorful opening ceremony

According to the SportingPulse website, today's opening ceremony will be a colorful event with all the Maeva Nui outer islands teams participating along with the Maeva Nui overall winner Oire Nikao.

The Maeva Nui Festival is one of the most important annual events in the Cook Islands as it celebrates self-rule and independence from New Zealand.

Pacific Mini Games opening ceremony coordinator Mauri Toa said, "it is going to be a bit unusual in that each country will be given a *turou* (welcome) that is unique to the island that will welcome them into the Bank of Cook Islands Stadium."

Aitutaki is expected to welcome the Northern Marianas contingent of Wabol, Manglona, and White.

MAYWEATHER

From Page 28

months ago who moved up two weight classes for this once-in-a-career payday at the MGM Grand Garden.

"Marquez is tough as nails," Mayweather said. "He's a great little man. He was really hard to fight, and he kept taking some unbelievable shots."

At Friday's weigh-in, Marquez (50-5-1) was four pounds lighter than Mayweather, who paid a $600,000 penalty for missing the bout weight of 144 pounds. Simple physics took over from there. Though Marquez stayed on his feet for 12 one-sided rounds, Money Mayweather's win was never in doubt.

"He's a great small man," Mayweather said. "Don't forget, I came from a small weight class too, so I know when you're in front of a great fighter. I think he brought his best tonight."

Mayweather had an astonishing edge in punch stats, landing 290 of his 493 blows (59 percent) while allowing just 12 percent of Marquez's 583 punches to land. Mayweather landed more jabs in each round than Marquez landed total punches, and just 16 percent of Marquez's power shots even got to Mayweather.

Mayweather often appeared to be toying with Marquez, who's generally considered among the world's top handful of fighters. Just 18 months ago, Marquez lost a narrow decision to unofficial pound-for-pound champion Manny Pacquiao—another mighty mite who's likely Mayweather's top choice for his next bout.

Pacquiao accepted a similarly mismatched challenge last year when he demolished Oscar De La Hoya, but the Golden Boy acknowledges his skills have diminished. Mayweather clearly is still at the top of his game.

"I've been off for two years, so I felt like it took me a couple of rounds to really know I was back in the ring again," Mayweather said. "I know I'll get better."

Mayweather dominated his undersized Mexican opponent in his first fight since stopping Ricky Hatton in December 2007. He then took a lengthy break from the sport that's dominated his life since he was a toddler, but returned for another eight-figure payday that should assuage the IRS while setting up another megafight.

Mayweather refused to reweigh himself Saturday night, so the true size of his advantage might never be known. Fighters often gain several pounds between the weigh-in and their bouts.

But his size advantage was obvious from the opening bell, when it became clear Marquez would struggle just to get close enough to throw good combinations.

"He surprised me with the first knockdown," Marquez said. "He hurt me in that round, but not any other time. I don't want to make any excuses, but the weight was the problem. He's too fast."

Judge Burt Clements gave every round to Mayweather, 120-107. Dave Moretti threw the eighth round to Marquez for a 119-108 total, while William Lerch gave two rounds to Marquez, 118-109. The Associated Press had a whitewash, 120-107.

Mayweather abruptly knocked down Marquez midway through the second round when Marquez walked into a left hook, but Mayweather largely stuck to his jab, leaned back in his familiar defensive posture and picked apart another opponent.

Marquez had a bloody nose by the bout's midway point, and Mayweather landed several hard shots late in the sixth. Whenever Marquez appeared to land a combination, Mayweather invariably backed away with a grin.

"When I hit him, he laughed, but I knew he felt my punches," Marquez said. "We tried to work the speed, but the difference was the weight."

Marquez added a brave defeat to a career noted for its disappointments as much as its triumphs. Marquez still seethes over his 0-1-1 record in two fights against Pacquiao, and he followed Pacquiao's path up in weight in search of bigger bouts, which he got in recent wins over Joel Casamayor and Juan Diaz.

Mayweather chose Marquez for his return bout after flirting with Pacquiao, who will fight Miguel Cotto in the same arena less than two months from now.

A Mayweather-Pacquiao fight would be the biggest in the sport, but a more natural opponent also wants a little Money. Sugar Shane Mosley called out Mayweather in the ring immediately after the fight, with Golden Boy representatives forced to separate the two.

The lukewarm public response to the bout underlined industry concerns Mayweather can't sell a pay-per-view on his own. The Grand Garden wasn't sold out just a few days before the fight, and large swaths of empty seats greeted the undercard fighters, though they were mostly filled before Mayweather entered the ring.

IT&E

From Page 28

loss cards.

Two other MBI players came away with double digits scores, as Junar Guiab and R.J. Nonato contributed 12 and 11, respectively.

It was a tight contest in the early goings with MBI taking a 14-13 lead after the first period.

Mendoza and Sanciangco led IT&E in a 24-14 second quarter run and the team took a 39-26 lead after that to control the game the rest of the way.

With under a minute left in the ballgame, Devero went 4-for-4 from the foul line as MBI cut the deficit to just three points, 70-73.

Nonato then missed from 3-point range that could have tied the game.

Sanciangco scored two from the free throw line off a foul by Guiab with 6.8 ticks to go and MBI then committed consecutive turnovers that sealed their fate.

IT&E 77 – Barbo 26, Sanciangco 20, Mendoza 16, Tumaquip 7, Deleon 5, Berline 3, Manibusan 2.

MBI 70 – Devero 30, Guiab 12, Nonato 11, Trajano 4, Capalad 4, Barbo 4, Demapan 3, Achas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-14, 39-28, 58-52, 77-70.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	95	54	.638	–
Boston	88	59	.599	6
Tampa Bay	76	73	.510	19
Toronto	66	82	.446	28 1/2
Baltimore	60	88	.405	34 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	78	70	.527	–
Minnesota	76	72	.514	2
Chicago	73	76	.490	5 1/2
Cleveland	61	87	.412	17
Kansas City	60	88	.405	18

West Division

Los Angeles	88	60	.595	–
Texas	81	66	.551	6 1/2
Seattle	77	72	.517	11 1/2
Oakland	70	78	.473	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	86	61	.585	_
Florida	80	69	.537	7
Atlanta	79	69	.534	7 1/2
New York	64	85	.430	23
Washington	51	97	.345	35 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	87	62	.584	_
Chicago	75	72	.510	11
Milwaukee	73	75	.493	13 1/2
Houston	70	78	.473	16 1/2
Cincinnati	68	81	.456	19
Pittsburgh	56	90	.384	29 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	89	60	.597	_
Colorado	84	65	.564	5
San Francisco	80	68	.541	8 1/2
San Diego	67	82	.450	22
Arizona	65	84	.436	24

Yesterday's Games

San Diego 2, Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Mets 3, Washington 2
St. Louis 2, Chicago Cubs 1
L.A. Dodgers 12, San Francisco 1
Milwaukee 7, Houston 2
Florida 3, Cincinnati 2
Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 4
Colorado 10, Arizona 4
Oakland 8, Cleveland 4
Minnesota 6, Detroit 2
Boston 11, Baltimore 5
Chicago White Sox 13, Kansas City 3
Texas 3, L.A. Angels 2
Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 0
N.Y. Yankees 10, Seattle 1

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

IT&E CAGING STANDINGS

IT&E	8	0
MBI	4	3
Docomo	3	1
Tinian	3	1
CHC	3	2
PSS	3	4
BOG	3	4
Hyatt	2	0
DCCA	2	3
Customs	1	2
CPA	0	5
ARFF	0	7

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sonics	4	0
Runnin' Rebels	3	1
Sparks	3	1
Sixers	3	1
G-Stars	2	0
670 Rollers 2	1	2
Saints	1	2
Rollers 1	1	3
Ol'Aces	1	3
670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	2
Celtics	0	3

The Week in Sports

Choi-wan cancels sports events

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Super typhoon Choi-wan gave Saipan athletes more trouble than their would-be opponents after it cancelled events in basketball and bowling this past week.

Packing 155 mph winds near the center, the super typhoon forced the Basketball Association of the Northern Marianas Islands to postpone three playdates of the Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League and the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League.

Not that rain was the issue, as the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was an indoor facility more than capable of keeping everyone safe and dry. The building, however, had to serve as an evacuation center for local residents affected by the inclement weather.

The Saipan Bowling Association, meanwhile, postponed the second day of its September King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament Monday due to Choi-Wan.

On Day 1 of the tourney, youth bowler Raphael Zapanta won his ninth straight Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament after knocking down 844 pinfalls for an average of 211 per game.

A couple of days before Choi-wan cancelled sports events left and right, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Berger repeated in the 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Off-Road Half-Marathon and Fun Run.

Kabiriel completed the 13.1-mile race in a time of 1:36:09 to rule the men's division, while Berger crossed the finish line in 1:46.17 to take home the women's tiara.

A few kilometers down the road at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Susupe, some 40 community members took part in the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk. Participants enjoyed a refreshing walk in the crystal clear waters of the Saipan lagoon.

Later in the afternoon, NMASA Hall of Famer Tony Rogolifoi bagged his first ever golf championship in the Juan Pan-Joe Camacho Fundraising Golf Tournament.

The soft-spoken former Division of Sports director carded the day's lowest net score of 66.80 to top the event held at the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

Skies were also clear when Oceania Table Tennis Federation development officer Scott Houston held a clinic for 23 of the island's youth at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Saturday evening.

MP United also received an equipment donation worth over $3,000 from Vivid Blue Football Club of Japan last Sept. 12.

Vivid Blue president Kazunori Suzuki said the donation are second-hand gear made up of socks, shirts, soccer balls, and other equipment the club' players themselves contributed.

In other news, the CNMI's two-man delegation to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games left Saipan Thursday and vowed to represent the Commonwealth the best they could in the quadrennial event to be held from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

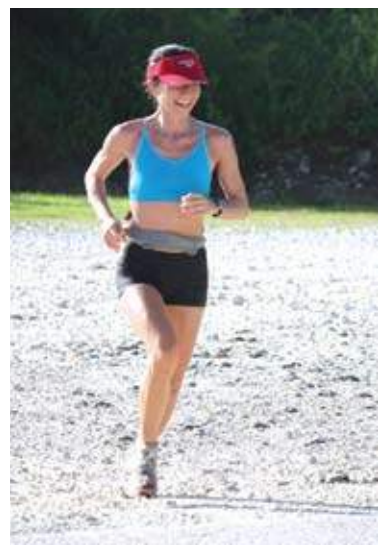
"I'm prepared for the challenges and I'm looking forward for good results. I cannot say it will be a learning experience for me because I've been to the Pacific Games so many times before," said CNMI national golfer Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol.

Tinian triathlete Joshua Manglona, for his part said, "It's my first time. My expectations is to come out with good results and to do my best, but at the same time enjoy it and have fun. I also hope to try and represent my home island of Tinian and the rest of the CNMI the best I can."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
September Prince of the Lanes Raphael Zapanta is flanked by runners-up Zach Cruz and Leeanne Yarobwemal after the competition last Sept. 13 at the Capital Bowling Center.

MARK RABAGO
MP United president Betty Johnson hands the club's 2009 spirit T-shirts to a representative from Vivid Blue Football Club last Sept. 22 following the latter's donation of over $3,000 worth of soccer equipment.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel approaches the finish line of the 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Off-Road Half-Marathon and Fun Run last Sept. 12.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Mamiko Berger approaches the finish line of the 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Off-Road Half-Marathon and Fun Run last Sept. 12.

MARK RABAGO
Golf's Jess Wabol, left, and triathlon's Joshua Manglona, right, pose with Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial before they departed for the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands. Fitial was on a flight for Guam where he was to compete in PXC 18.

MARK RABAGO
Marlon Estigoy, left, and Lito Evangelista took part in the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk last Sept. 12.

MARK RABAGO
Macoi Aguda and Bob Grump are all smiles after taking part in the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk held in the waters off Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Susupe.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Kids who joined the clinic conducted by Oceania Table Tennis Federation development officer Scott Houston, standing fourth from right, pose for a photo with members and officers of the Marianas Table Tennis Association led by president Steve Lim (second row left) and vice president Budhi Gurung (third row, third from right).

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero's runningmate, Joseph N. Camacho, congratulates Tony Rogolifoi for topping the tandem's golf fundraiser held last Sept. 12 at the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Choi-wan cancels sports events

Super typhoon Choi-wan gave Saipan athletes more trouble than their would-be opponents after it cancelled events in basketball and bowling this past week. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yankees crush Mariners to keep AL East lead

The New York Yankees resumed their cruise to the American League East title with a 10-1 rout of the Seattle Mariners on Saturday. 24

Pacific Mini Games to start today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Golf's Jess Wabol and triathlon's Joshua Manglona will join hundreds of their fellow islanders as the 2009 Pacific Mini Games unveils today with an opening ceremony at the Bank of Cook Islands National Stadium.

The CNMI's two-man delegation will jointly hold the CNMI flag as they march together in the opening ceremony with other athletes from 22 island nations.

Aside from the CNMI, other island nations that will participate in the Mini Games, set from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2, are Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Guam, American Samoa, Samoa, Norfolk Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Wallis and Fatuna, Fiji, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, and host Cook Islands.

The 22 island nations will compete in 15 sports, namely athletics, boxing, golf, lawn bowls, netball, rugby league sevens, rugby sevens, sailing, squash, table tennis, tennis, touch rugby, triathlon, va'a, and weightlifting.

Wabol will see action in Day 2 of the competition as golf will be played from Sept. 22 to 25 at the Rarotonga Golf Course with 11 island nations participating.

Manglona, for his part, will not compete until Sept. 30 when he tests his mettle in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run Olympic-distance triathlon set in Rarotonga's harbor and marina area.

MARK RABAGO
Golf's Jess Wabol, left, and triathlon's Joshua Manglona, right, check into their flight for Guam Thursday afternoon at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

WWW.SPORTINGPULSE.COM
The 2009 Pacific Mini Games will hold its opening ceremony today at the Bank of Cook Islands National Stadium in Rarotonga.

Lack of govt support

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports As-

See PACIFIC on Page 26

Mayweather pummels Marquez

AP
Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, connects with Juan Manuel Marquez, of Mexico, during their non-title welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009.

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Money came back with a guarantee. Floyd Mayweather Jr. told the world he was still its best boxer despite taking 21 months off, and he backed up every boast with every jab in an impressive victory.

Although next time out, hopefully he'll pick on somebody his own size.

Mayweather overpowered the smaller, lighter Juan Manuel Marquez for an unanimous decision Saturday night, maintaining his perfect record in his comeback from retirement.

Mayweather knocked down Marquez in the second round and then peppered him with countless damaging shots to remain unbeaten (40-0, 25 KOs). Still, his impressive effort couldn't be viewed without weighing the obvious disadvantages in height and strength faced by the talented Marquez, a 130-pounder just 18

See MAYWEATHER on Page 26

IT&E further distances itself from pack

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Host IT&E further distanced itself from the pack after pulling off a hard-fought 77-70 win against second-running Micronesian Brokers Inc. last Friday night in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MBI's Bartley Demapan raises both hands in this rebound battle against Bruce Berline as Junar Guiab looks on during their game Friday night in IT&E Inter-Government Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Darwin Barbo consistently burned the hoops with 26 points to lead his team to their eighth consecutive win.

Ryan Sanciangco did not score in the first quarter before breaking out with 20 points—including two crucial free throws—in the final minutes of the contest.

Edsel Mendoza made 11 points in the first two quarters, went scoreless in the third, before adding five in the fourth to finish with 16 points for the night.

MBI's streak-shooter Ivan Devero finished with a game-high 30 points but the team absorbed its third defeat against four wins.

Despite the loss, MBI is still at second place ahead of Docomo and Tinian, which both carry 3-1 win-

See IT&E on Page 26

Sonics zoom past Rebels, seize solo lead

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Sonics recovered from a slow start to ambush the Runnin' Rebels, 46-40, last Friday night in the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Bryan Ajoste led all scorers with 20 points. He went 9-for-9 from the free throw line in the second half, where he had 13 markers.

Josh Kiyoshi led the Rebels with 11, Mike Iguel chipped in seven, while Ryan Ichihara and J.R. Nogis had six apiece.

Kiyoshi, Iguel, and Nogis paced the Rebels' offensive thrust as the team took a 19-16 advantage going into the second half of action.

But the Sonics' leaned on Ajoste's penetrations, Jeon's undergoal stabs, and Adrian Palacios' all-around play as they led the team's second-half attacks to preserve the victory.

With the win, the Sonics seized solo leadership with four wins and remained the only undefeated team so far this season.

The Rebels' first setback created a three-way tie along with the Sparks and the Sixers in the 18-and-under caging.

Sonics 46 – Ajoste 20, Daewin Jeon 13, Ecalnea 7, Palacios 5, Cadiang 1.

Rebels 40 – Kiyoshi 11, Iguel 7, Ichihara 6, Nogis 6, Rogolifoi 4, Palacios 2, Rangamar 2, Aughenbauch 2.

Scoring by halves: 16-19, 46, 40.